*Wisdom and Commerce the Guardians of Britain under the Auspices of K. George III.*



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THE

# HISTORY

AND

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

OF THE

# COUNTY OF KENT.

CONTAINING THE

ANTIENT AND PRESENT STATE OF IT,

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL;

COLLECTED FROM PUBLIC RECORDS,

AND OTHER AUTHORITIES:

ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS, VIEWS, ANTIQUITIES, &c.

*THE SECOND EDITION,*

IMPROVED, CORRECTED, AND CONTINUED TO

THE PRESENT TIME.

By EDWARD HASTED, Esq. F.R.S. and S.A.

LATE OF CANTERBURY.

"*Ex his omnibus, longe sunt humanissimi qui Cantium incolunt.*"

"*Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis,*

"*Nec imbellem feroces progenerant.*"

VOLUME I.



CANTERBURY:

PRINTED BY W. BRISTOW, ON THE PARADE,

M.DCC.XCVII.

BRITISH MUSEUM






TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

# CHARLES MARSHAM,

*LORD ROMNEY,*

BARON OF ROMNEY, IN THE COUNTY OF KENT, &c. &c.

MY LORD,

IT is with much diffidence and reſpect, that I preſume to offer this Volume to your Patronage, a liberty I ſhould not have preſumed to take, had I not been encouraged to it by the well known liberality of your Lordſhip's ſentiments, and the many ſingular favours you have condeſcended to honour me with; but your beneficence, my Lord, is univerſal

verſal, and in your generous protection, the diſtreſſed and the unfortunate are ſure to find both ſuccour and relief. Your Lordſhip's conduct, indeed, is uniform; ever good and benevolent in private and domeſtic life, ever foremoſt in patriotiſm and love for your country, you have, my Lord, ſtood forth in your concern for the public welfare on every occaſion, as well in the field as in the ſenate. This is ſo well known, and is ſo much the praiſe and admiration of every one, that it wants no eulogium of mine—To dwell on it, therefore, my Lord, would be an affront to your feelings: Truth only is neceſſary when your Lordſhip is mentioned; your character is above flattery; I will therefore no longer treſpaſs on your Lordſhip's patience farther than to intreat you to pardon this effuſion of gratitude, and that you will condeſcend to accept it as the only acknowledgment in my power of the moſt grateful and profound reſpect with which I remain

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt obliged

And moſt obedient ſervant,

*LONDON,*
JANUARY 1, 1797.

EDWARD HASTED.

# PREFACE.

AMONG THE DIFFERENT COUNTIES *of England*, which have been at times illuſtrated by the labours of ingenious men, *the county of Kent*, beſides the part it has in the general deſcriptions of Britain, has perhaps had a greater ſhare of their attention than any other in the kingdom.

*Leland*, librarian to king Henry VIII. may be ſaid to be the firſt who undertook *a particular and regular deſcription* of the ſeveral counties of this kingdom. To effect this general ſurvey, he obtained the king's commiſſion to ſearch all libraries whatever. He viſited almoſt every part of England for this purpoſe, during the ſpace of ſix years, and took notes of whatever he imagined might be of ſervice to his intended work, in doing which, he appears to have made uſe of the many valuable manuſcripts depoſited in the ſeveral monaſteries throughout the kingdom, which were ſoon afterwards diſperſed, and many of them purpoſely deſtroyed. His collections, made for this county, are by no means the ſmalleſt of thoſe he left behind him, but the greatneſs of his deſign, in all likelihood, diſturbed his reaſon, ſo that he only left the great outlines of it, which appear to have been taken with great integrity.

On this rude, yet firm foundation, *Mr. Camden* is ſuppoſed to have framed the glorious ſuperſtructure of his *Britannia*, a work of immortal fame, as well to the author as the country he has deſcribed. It was firſt publiſhed in 1586, and went through *five editions* in the author's life time. From this work, he was deſervedly eſteemed the *great reſtorer of antiquity to Britain*; and as he

he exceeded former ages in his admirable work, ſo he has remained without an equal to this time. As his *Britannia* included not only the deſcription of England and Scotland, but of Ireland too, it could admit but of a very ſhort and conciſe account of each particular county, nevertheleſs it has abundance of learning and information, though contained in ſo ſmall a ſpace.

The next *general deſcription of Great Britain* was publiſhed a long time after that above mentioned, under the title of *Magna Britannia et Hibernia*; or, *A new Survey of Great Britain and Ireland.* It was compiled by different perſons, and having been firſt publiſhed in monthly numbers, was afterwards publiſhed in ſix volumes, *quarto*; the firſt in 1720, and the reſt in the ſucceeding years; but it was left imperfect, the Engliſh counties only being deſcribed; conſidering the greatneſs of the undertaking, it is eſteemed a work of ſome merit and reputation. Beſides the notice which has been taken of this county, in common with others, in theſe general deſcriptions of Britain, the following ingenious and learned men have employed their pens to celebrate its praiſes in particular.

*William Lambarde, eſq. of Lincoln's-inn*, who was well verſed in the *Saxon* language, and moſt intelligent in the antient laws and cuſtoms of that people, drew up, among many other learned diſcourſes, An alphabetical Deſcription of Places throughout England and Wales, publiſhed ſince his death, under the title of, *A Topographical Dictionary*, which he intended as a ſtore houſe, from whence he might draw materials for a particular deſcription of each county. Moſt probably *Camden's* undertaking his *Britannia* put a ſtop to this deſign, and he only finiſhed what he had begun as a trial, *his own county of Kent*; his *Perambulation* of it, containing the antient hiſtory, laws, and cuſtoms of the county, eſpecially in whatever the *Saxons* were concerned, with the *Saxon* etymology of places and things, was publiſhed in 1570; and it was not only highly approved of by Camden, and other literary men of that age, but has given hints to learned men of ſucceeding times to endeavour the like for their reſpective counties.

*Mr.*

*Mr. William Somner*, of Canterbury, in the beginning of king Charles I.'s reign, whilſt the bleſſing of peace remained in this happy iſle, collected his materials for his *Hiſtory of Canterbury*, which was afterwards publiſhed in 1640. His great proficiency in the *Saxon* language, made him eſteemed the moſt eminent antiquary of his time; and as his induſtry was indefatigable, he laid a plan of writing a hiſtory of the whole county, but the impetuous ſtorm of civil war and fanaticiſm, which broke out ſoon afterwards, and directed its fury againſt every thing that had the appearance of learning, religion, or decency, ſoon obliged him to quit his deſign, and to turn his thoughts to the preſervation of his own domeſtic concerns, and the ſafety of himſelf and family. All that is left of this deſign ſeems to be, *A Treatiſe of the Roman Ports and Forts in Kent*, publiſhed ſince his death, ſuppoſed to be part of it; and ſome *manuſcript* collections relating to ſome few towns and churches in Kent, now in the manuſcript library of the dean and chapter of Canterbury.

*Richard Kilburne, eſq. of Hawkurſt*, publiſhed, in 1659, in quarto, *A Topography*, or *Survey of Kent*; but it is little more than *a Directory*, to point out the ſeveral diviſions of the county: the names of rivers, towns, and pariſhes, and the diſtance of them from each other; the liberties, fairs, and markets, within them; the dedication of churches, with a liſt of ſheriffs, &c.

*John Philipott, rouge dragon*, and afterwards *Somerſet herald*, who had viſited this county in the year 1619, and the two following years, as marſhal and deputy to William Camden, clarencieux king at arms, ſoon afterwards began to make collections for *An hiſtorical Survey of the County of Kent*, which he ſeems to have continued till about the year 1640; no long time after which, the common fatality of the civil war overwhelmed him with misfortunes, and he lived for ſome years afterwards in great poverty and obſcurity till his death, which happened in 1645. What ſtate his collections were left in, or what pains it coſt his ſon, *Thomas Philipott*, to put them into order, is not known, but the latter took the whole merit of them to himſelf, and without mentioning his father, publiſhed them in 1659, in a ſmall *folio*, under his

his own name, by the title of, *Villare Cantianum*; or, *Kent ſurveyed and illuſtrated*; to which he added a *Catalogue of Sheriffs*, which he owns was drawn up by his father. This Survey contains a hiſtory of the deſcents of the ſeveral manors and places of note in this county and the owners of them, with ſome few hiſtorical diſſertations, intermixed on particular matters of antiquity. The whole ſeems to be the rude materials which *John Philipott* had collected, with an intention of framing them into a more copious and complete hiſtory.

*Dr. Plott* had certainly formed a plan, after the manner of what he had already publiſhed for Oxfordſhire and Staffordſhire, of a *Natural Hiſtory of this County*, with an account of the *Roman* antiquities, roads, &c. in it; but beginning this deſign at the farther part of life, and being involved in other buſineſs, he can be ſaid but barely to have projected the outlines of it. Part of his collections for this purpoſe came afterwards into the hands of the late Mr. Thorpe of Bexley, in this county.

The laſt work of this kind, and the leaſt in reputation too, was that of *Dr. Harris*, prebendary of Rocheſter, who ſpent eight years in making collections for a *Hiſtory of this county*, but he did not live to ſee the fate of his tranſcripts, the firſt volume of which, in *folio*, was publiſhed in 1719, a few months after his death, under the title of, *The Hiſtory of Kent, containing an exact Topography or Deſcription of the County, civil, eccleſiaſtical, and natural, with the Hiſtory of the Royal Navy of England.* It contains but few alterations from the former deſcriptions of this county, and as few continuations of families, the owners of the ſeveral manors and eſtates, concluding with the poſſeſſors of them in Philipott's time, which was in the year 1656. What progreſs the Doctor had made towards his *ſecond volume*, which was never publiſhed, is not known; but dying inſolvent, his papers were diſperſed, and though every enquiry has been made after them, yet no knowledge has been gained what is become of them.

Such have been the attempts of learned and ingenious men to illuſtrate *the Hiſtory of Kent*. How far they have accompliſhed this

this taſk muſt be left to the judgment of others, perhaps conſidering the extenſiveneſs of the county and the multiplicity of matter neceſſary to be treated of in it, beyond that of moſt others, it may be found too much for one perſon to undertake, ſo as to accompliſh it with any tolerable ſatisfaction, either to himſelf or the public; indeed, had *Mr. Somner* lived in more quiet times, and had leiſure to have indulged his beloved paſſion for the ſtudy of antiquity, he would probably have left a hiſtory of this county, which would have done honour both to the writer and the county itſelf. He undoubtedly deſigned ſuch a work. His learning, both in antiquity and hiſtory, and more eſpecially in the *Saxon* tongue, was uncommonly great, his application was unwearied, and he had a purity of manners, which ſtamped a more than ordinary degree of credit on whatever came from his pen. His Hiſtory of Canterbury, with his other learned treatiſes, are ſpecimens of what might have been expected, had he been at leiſure to have accompliſhed this great deſign.

Nor are thoſe already mentioned the only learned men who have employed their pens in illuſtrating the hiſtory and antiquities within this county; many partial hiſtories and accounts of towns and places, particularly of Canterbury, Rocheſter, Maidſtone, Faverſham, and Tunbridge Wells, of Romney marſh, and the Weald, have been at times publiſhed; ſeveral of which have no ſmall degree of merit, and bear a good reputation among the learned. The beſt methodized, accurate, and moſt perfect county hiſtory which has been publiſhed, is *Sir William Dugdale's Hiſtory of Warwickſhire*, publiſhed in 1656, before the deſtruction made by the fanatics, in one volume *folio*; a moſt valuable and laborious work, as appears by the number of authorities quoted in the margin of it. *Sir Henry Chauncy's Hiſtory of Hertfordſhire*, publiſhed in 1700, in a like ſize, is eſteemed the next beſt, and ſeems formed moſtly upon the ſame plan; though had his digreſſions been ſhorter, and his authorities more frequent, his work would have been much more pleaſing and much more valuable.

From

From theſe, which have been the patterns of all ſucceeding county hiſtories, which bear any kind of reputation, with all due deference to their ſuperior learning and abilities, *the plan of this Hiſtory* has been in a great meaſure formed.

*The contents of it* have been compiled, in a great meaſure, from extenſive ſearches made among the different offices of record, and other repoſitaries of learning, both public and private, in London and elſewhere, all which need not be enumerated here, as the continued references to them, throughout the work, will ſufficiently point them out; from a conſtant ſeries of correſpondence with perſons of the moſt reſpectable rank and fortune in the county, with the clergy, and with the gentlemen practitioners of the law, from whom the ſeveral ſubjects in it, eſpecially as to deſcent and property, have been elucidated and aſcertained on ſure grounds, beſides which, parochial viſitations have been made throughout the county, by which the knowledge of every particular, worthy of attention, has been gained.

As to *The General Hiſtory* prefixed to this work, it will be neceſſary to obſerve, that the accounts of Britain, before Cæſar's time, are by moſt deemed fabulous; his Commentaries are the firſt which have any appearance of truth, though the whole narrative of his expeditions hither ſeem but a partial repreſentation of facts, in which whatever could tend to increaſe his own glory is punctually related; and the contrary, with as much art, ſoftened or entirely omitted. Whatever therefore he relates of this county, and the inhabitants of it, muſt be read with much caution, as he attained his knowledge of it, not from his own obſervations, (his progreſs in it being of ſhort extent, no farther than St. Alban's, in an almoſt direct route, his time but juſt ſufficient for his military obſervations, and himſelf and his forces in continual jeopardy from the Britons,) but from the hearſay of thoſe who dwelt on the coaſt adjoining to France, and who never travelled into the interior parts of the iſland.

What is met with relating to Britain in Tacitus, Dion, Suetonius, and others of later times, ſeems to have a greater founda-

tion

tion of truth than the elegant and well dreſſed Commentaries of the ambitious and vain glorious Cæſar. Notwithſtanding which, whether his relation is conſiſtent with truth or not, it is the earlieſt that has any probability of it, and as ſuch, muſt be made uſe of by every hiſtorian, who wiſhes to give any account of Britain at that period of time.

The hiſtory of this county, from the departure of the Romans, during the times that the *Engliſh*, the *Saxons*, the *Danes*, and the *Normans*, were contending for the ſovereignty of it, is very differently related by the reſpective hiſtorians of thoſe periods, each inclining, with great partiality, in favour of his own nation; the truth of the events of thoſe times muſt therefore be inveſtigated, by comparing the probability of what each advances with the others, and yet, after all, the certainty of it will hang by a very ſlender thread indeed.

In the *account of the deſcent and change of property*, later than the abolition of the court of wards, and the authenticity of former hiſtories, very few authorities can be given, moſt of the information being from private correſpondence, oral information, or perſonal knowledge of the facts. The difficulty of procuring any knowledge in relation to them is becoming every year greater: Whilſt *feudal tenures* ſubſiſted, and the courts of wards and liveries was in being, a complete information could be gained of almoſt every manor and eſtate of conſequence of which any one died poſſeſſed, either by ſearching that office, for the ſolemn *inquiſition*, uſually ſtiled, *Inquiſitio poſt mortem*, taken after the poſſeſſors death by the king's *eſcheator*, on the oaths of a jury, who enquired what lands he died ſeiſed of, who was his heir, and of what age, and by what ſervices he held—or by ſearching the *eſcheat rolls*, made up from his return, at the exchequer. The above mentioned court was aboliſhed at the reſtoration of king Charles II. and theſe helps are now loſt to the laborious hiſtorian, and he muſt conſequently, as his only reſource, apply to the poſſeſſors of the property themſelves, no doubt the fountain head, where he ought to make his application, where his information muſt be authentic; but from various reaſons,

reaſons, too obvious to mentio.. how few are there who can command the poſſeſſion of their own deeds, and of the few who can, how difficult it is, in this age of diſtruſt, to prevail on them to afford any information relating to the titles of their lands, much more with the ſight of them; indeed, the practitioners of the law, through a conſtant attention to the emoluments of their profeſſion, have, for ſome years paſt, ſo multiplied the deeds of all eſtates, and extended them to ſuch an enormous length, that the trouble of producing, as well as of examining them, is become both tireſome and laborious.

The *variety of information*, which has been found neceſſary to inſert in this hiſtory, has ſo far filled every part of it, as to leave no opportunity of adding ſuch digreſſions and criticiſms as occurred on many of the ſubjects mentioned in it, which would otherwiſe have been frequently done. The continual repetitions in the ſeveral pages of it could not be well avoided in carrying on the chain of narrative; and, indeed, had they not been ſubmitted to, the frequency of the references, in conſequence of their omiſſion, would have rendered the ſeveral pages the moſt troubleſome and diſagreeable of all kind of reading.

The *natural hiſtory* of this county is a ſubject ſo copious, and abounding with ſuch a variety of matter, that it neither can nor ought to be made a part of any book, it requires one entirely to itſelf, and a genius particularly adapted to the ſtudy of it, the ſole attention and application of which ſhould be that alone, and it muſt be the employment of ſeveral years to compoſe one that would do ſufficient juſtice to it; however ſuch matters as have occurred to the author, either from his own obſervations, or the communications of his friends, will be found interſperſed throughout the work.

The ſeveral *peculiar cuſtoms* of different places and remarkable occurrences are in general taken notice of, all trifling and credulous ſtories, which are a diſgrace to common ſenſe, being omitted.

In

In the account of the ſeveral *religious foundations* it will, perhaps, be obſerved, eſpecially in that of Faverſham, that they are not repreſented in ſo odious a light as has been too much the practice for ſome time paſt, whether right or wrong, to ſerve either party or particular purpoſes. There were thoſe among them, no doubt, as there are among all denominations of men, who were not without the common failings of human nature; but though there were ſome few among them, whoſe actions might be deemed a ſcandal to religion, and their ignorance a diſgrace to the ſociety they belonged to, yet there were many others of them who were great, pious, and good men, and of excellent learning for the times, many of whom were preferred to, and exerciſed with becoming credit, the higheſt offices in the ſtate, the church, and the law; and in many of their houſes great regularity of diſcipline and prayer was kept up, and daily charity diſpenſed at their gates to hundreds of the poor and hungry, who conſtantly flocked thither for that purpoſe.

In many of the extracts from the *Records of Domeſday* (the printing of which, in *fac ſimile* engravings, none but thoſe whoſe continued practice had gained a *technical* knowledge in antient records, could have interpreted, or even have read, and as ſuch would have been of little or no uſe) it will no doubt be obſerved, that the names of places are very different from the preſent ones of thoſe they are ſuppoſed to deſcribe. This appears to have been owing, as well to the miſtakes of the *Norman* ſcribes, made perhaps for the purpoſe, who took their accounts from the mouths of the *Saxon* inhabitants, as to the great change worked by ſuch length of time in the very names themſelves, inſomuch that the greateſt part of them, at this time, requires a perſon well acquainted with the antient hiſtory of the ſeveral places, as well as the provincial dialect of the county, to interpret them, and fix them to the places they are meant to deſcribe, and even then conjecture muſt frequently be reſorted to for this purpoſe, however it is hoped, that very few miſtakes have been committed in the interpretation of them.

The *maps* of the ſeveral hundreds have been executed with much pains and attention, and conſidering, that they are the firſt which have been attempted of the kind for this county, are as accurate as can well be expected; the difficulty of aſcertaining the bounds of moſt of them has been very great, ſeveral of them ſo very intricate as to be almoſt unknown, as well as thoſe of the reſpective laths in which they are ſituated; the lowy of Tunbridge, the hundreds of Watchlingſtone and Weſt Barnefield, have been particularly ſo. The method of making the map of the county was well conſidered of, and the one adopted is what, upon conſultation with ſeveral ingenious perſons, ſeemed moſt approved of.

As to the *views* of the ſeveral ſeats, they are as well executed as ſuch ſort in general are; ſome of them are done in a more elegant and expenſive ſtyle, where the donors have ſhewn a more than ordinary liberality, in order to do credit to the county, in thus embelliſhing the Hiſtory of it. The expence, at this time, of engravings, even from the hand of a moderate artiſt, is ſuch that it is hardly decent to aſk it of any one; from the more eminent hands it is extravagant beyond all reaſon.

The *genealogies* of families have been held by many in by far too trivial and uſeleſs a light, eſpecially when it is conſidered, that men, whoſe anceſtors have been famed for their public virtue and patriotiſm, for the glorious actions they have peformed for their country, or for their proficiency in philoſophy, learning, or the polite arts, are frequently ſtimulated to imitate their bright and worthy examples. The ſhame of degenerating from the reputation their families hold in the eſtimation of mankind in general, deters them from committing baſe and unworthy actions, actions unworthy thoſe whoſe blood fills their veins. Relationſhip of family extended, by the preſervation of pedigrees, promotes a chain of ſociety and good will that often affords aſſiſtance and ſupport to every link of it; beſides which, many public foundations are enjoined to give a preference in the election of their members to particular conſanguinities. Many endowments for the education of youth, as well in ſchools

as

as in the colleges of both univerſities, and many offices of truſt and emolument, are in like manner confined to kindred, by their founders and benefactors. How many eſtates are loſt to their right owners from their pedigrees being inadequate to trace and authenticate their titles to them, in conſequence of which advertiſements frequently appear in the public papers to endeavour to find out the next of kin to poſſeſs an inheritance. The well-known loſs of the *Selby eſtate* to the right heir is a recent inſtance, what care ought to be taken in this particular. There are ſome, indeed, who attempt to turn antient deſcent and pedigree into ridicule and contempt, but it has been obſerved, and that very juſtly, that this is ſeldom done, except by thoſe who have none themſelves, and think by ſo doing, to level others to a footing with themſelves.

It was at firſt hoped to have preſerved ſome ſimilitude and propriety in the *orthography* of the names both of places and perſons, but this was obliged ſoon to be given up entirely; the variety of ſpelling, both in manuſcripts and hiſtories, and ſtill farther even in records and acts of parliament is aſtoniſhing, as may be ſeen, as well by the gavel-kind acts of king Henry VIII. and king Edward VI. as the ſeveral private acts, paſſed of later years, for the ſale or ſettlement of eſtates; private deeds and conveyances frequently diſagree in theſe particulars—fathers and ſons frequently alter the ſpelling of their names, brothers do the ſame, to diſtinguiſh the different branches of the ſame family; and ſome, after a generatiou or two, have reſumed the former ſpelling of their names again.

THUS FAR it has been thought proper to ſelect from the *Prefaces* to the ſeveral volumes of the former edition, for the information of the reader of theſe volumes, and it will be now neceſſary to treſpaſs a little farther on his patience, in relation to the preſent undertaking, which has been begun at the requeſt of many, who though they approved much of the work itſelf, yet, from the bulk of the *folio edition*, and the very high price it ſells for, declined the purchaſe of it, though at the ſame time they wiſhed much to obtain it in a ſmaller and more convenient ſize, and at a

much more reaſonable price. The *preſent edition* it is hoped will, in every reſpect, anſwer both theſe purpoſes, and meet with their approbation, as well as of the public in general, for no endeavours nor expence have been ſpared to render it worthy their attention. Among the many improvements made in it, the parts of the former edition, which have been thought too *prolix* or *unneceſſary*, as well as all *tautologies*, have been omitted, the ſeveral *errors* and *miſtakes*, obſerved by the author himſelf, or communicated to him by others, are corrected; *much information* on every ſubject communicated by different correſpondents, ſince the publication of the former volumes, are inſerted throughout the work, and the ſeveral *articles* in each pariſh are *differently arranged*, ſo as to render the ſucceſſion of them much more pleaſant to the reader. The *modern ſtate* of each pariſh is greatly enlarged with numbers of obſervations unnoticed before, and the ſeveral *manors* and *eſtates* are continued down to the *preſent time*. A full account of the ſeveral *parochial charities*, tranſcribed from the returns of them, made in conformity to the act of parliament to the quarter ſeſſions, and a ſelection of *epitaphs*, in the ſeveral churches, which were omitted in the firſt and ſecond volumes of the former edition, are likewiſe added. Much objection has been made to the frequent *notes*, which in the former edition ſo often interrupted the reader, to remedy which, they are all of them here inſerted among the text, except the quotations of authorities, which are the only ones that remain, to be referred to.

The *number of theſe volumes*, as far as can be judged at preſent, will not exceed EIGHT; every endeavour has, and will be uſed, to comprize this undertaking within that number, and it is hoped, that this will be effected, and that without omitting any material part of the hiſtory, notwithſtanding there are ſeveral other additions and improvements too copious to inſert in the limits of this preface, inſomuch that it may rather be eſteemed as a *new Hiſtory* than a ſecond edition of a former one.

The *prints*, inſerted in the courſe of theſe volumes, are ſeveral of them thoſe, where the ſize would admit of it, which belonged

to

to the folio edition, though much improved, the others are ſuch as have been engraved at no ſmall expence purpoſely for theſe volumes.

As to the numerous *folio prints* belonging to the former edition, as there is not a poſſibility of inſerting them in theſe ſmall volumes, it is propoſed, that the purchaſers may not be deprived of them, to make up SIX of them, and to deliver them, ſewed up in a number, if required, to the purchaſers of each volume at a very trifling price, though highly improved for this purpoſe by a very eminent artiſt.

LASTLY, the reader's candour is requeſted in like manner as was neceſſary in the former edition, to excuſe ſuch errors and miſtakes, for many ſuch there muſt unavoidably occur to him, likewiſe in the peruſal of theſe volumes, but he may be aſſured, that there has not been a ſingle one wilfully made, but that the ſacred path of truth has been invaribly purſued throughout them, and as every endeavour has been uſed, and neither coſt nor pains ſpared, to gratify his expectation, it is hoped, eſpecially when he conſiders the difficulty of ſo great an undertaking from the hand of a ſingle perſon, that he will be induced the more liberally to look over and pardon whatever he finds amiſs, in the courſe of them, intreating him to acquieſce in the well known ſentiment of the poet—

" QUOD SI DEFICIANT VIRES, AUDACIA CERTE
" LAUS ERIT; IN MAGNIS ET VOLUISSE SAT EST."

☞ *Any* ERRORS *or* MISTAKES, *in the former edition, or communications towards the improvement of these volumes, will, at any time, in future, be thankfully received, if directed to* W. BRISTOW, PARADE, CANTERBURY.

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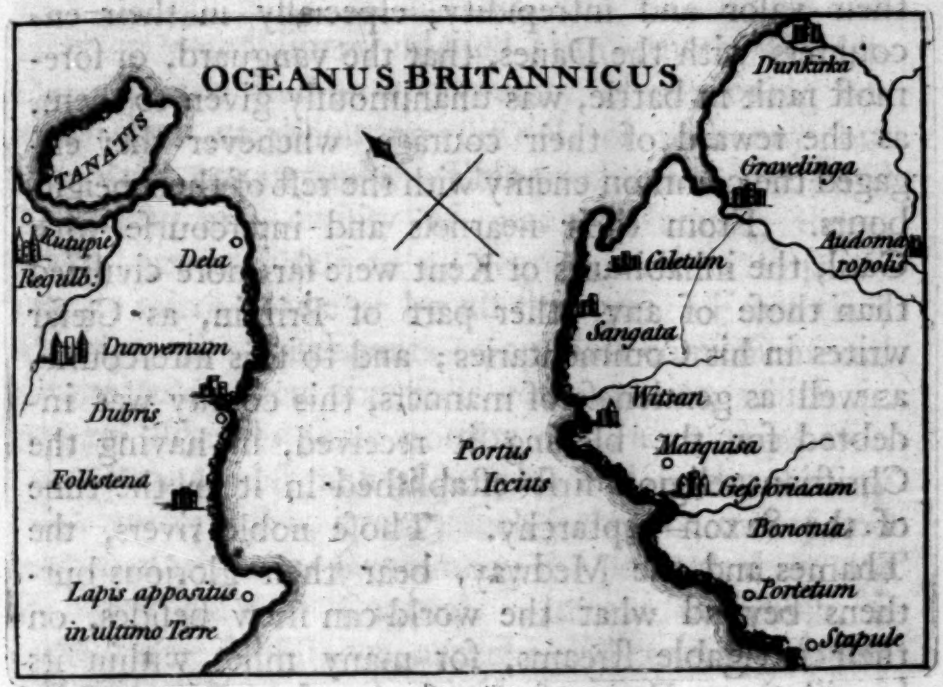
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## *DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.*

1. *Before and oppoſite Title Page,* A FANCY VIGNETTE.
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3. *Before, and to face p.* 339, *Map of* BLACKHEATH HUNDRED.
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THE

# *HISTORY*

OF THE

# COUNTY OF KENT.

AMONG the different counties of England, few have been more enriched, both by art and nature, than the county of Kent. Beſides the advantages it enjoys in common with its neighbours, this county has many peculiar to itſelf. Among which may be reckoned its ſituation, ſo well adapted for commerce and trade, and to ſecure it, as long as Britain remained divided into diſtinct principalities, from enemies on every ſide; which, with the natural bravery of the inhabitants, preſerved it as an entire kingdom for near four hundred years.

The Kentiſhmen afterwards became ſo famous for their valor and intrepidity, eſpecially in their encounters with the Danes, that the vanguard, or foremoſt rank in battle, was unanimouſly given to them, as the reward of their courage, whenever they engaged the common enemy with the reſt of their neighbours. From their nearneſs and intercourſe with Gaul, the inhabitants of Kent were far more civilized than thoſe of any other part of Britain, as Cæſar writes in his Commentaries; and to this intercourſe, as well as gentleneſs of manners, this county was indebted for the bleſſing it received, in having the Chriſtian religion firſt eſtabliſhed in it in the time of the Saxon heptarchy. Thoſe noble rivers, the Thames and the Medway, bear their glorious burthens beyond what the world can ſhew beſides, on their navigable ſtreams, for many miles within its boundaries. Four of the docks of the Royal Navy of Great Britain are ſituated on their banks, and thoſe rivers the ſtations of it. The cuſtoms and tenures of it are free, much beyond thoſe claimed in any other part of this kingdom. It has the honor of having the Archiepiſcopal See fixed within it, and its chief city the metropolitical city of all England, and of having another dioceſe ſtill within its bounds. It has four of the antient Cinque Ports, and the Court of Shipway within it, and the Caſtle of Dover, ſo highly celebrated in hiſtory for its antiquity and great conſequence to Britain: inſomuch, that it was called, for its ſtrength and ſuperiority, The Lock and Key of the Kingdom.

To its ſituation, this county owes, in a great meaſure, that wealth and abundance which is ſo laviſhly diffuſed over every part of it: the ſea-coaſt, and the rivers Thames and Medway, furniſh employments ſo various and lucrative to all ranks of people, and cauſe ſuch an accumulation of trade and riches, that not only the adjacent, but the moſt inland parts partake

partake of it. From their continued intercourſe with foreigners of all nations, the inhabitants are more open and liberal minded than others, who ſeldom, if ever, find an opportunity of converſing beyond their neighbouring diſtrict, or with any but their own countrymen. This produces a well-bred hoſpitality and civility of manners among them, which extends itſelf to all degrees, and is ſo particularly taken notice of by all ſtrangers. From their ſituation, the inhabitants enjoy moſt convenient and profitable markets for their commodities, which in general diſpenſes ſome portion of its advantages even among the loweſt rank of people; and in this county there are very few, if any, ſuch ſcenes of miſery and wretchedneſs to be ſeen among the poor, as there are in many parts of England. Inſtead of which, a comfortable ſubſiſtance, and cheerful content is found in moſt of the meaneſt cottages. From the freedom of its tenures and cuſtoms, the lands throughout the county are ſhared by almoſt every houſekeeper in it: by which means the Great are reſtrained from poſſeſſing ſuch a vaſt extent of domains, as might prompt them to exerciſe tyranny over their inferiors: and every one's poſſeſſions being intermixed, there ariſes an unavoidable chain of intereſts between them, which entitles both one and the other to mutual obligations and civilities. From the eſtabliſhments of the church in it, learning and religion is ſpread throughout it by the moſt eminent and diſtinguiſhed men in the kingdom, who being likewiſe preferred to parochial cures in it, teach the pure doctrine of the goſpel, and the principles of virtue and morality to all ranks in every village, to the great increaſe of good government and of ſociety in general. The bravery of the Kentiſhmen in antient times is ſtill inherited by the preſent generation of them: many ſhining examples of heroiſm, in the memory of every one, might be inſtanced, of thoſe,

whoſe noble actions, and whoſe courage, conduct, and activity, in their commands in the Britiſh army and navy, would have done honor to antient Rome; and there are many ſtill advancing haſtily to the like ſummit of reputation in both. Nor are thoſe of a lower rank leſs conſpicuous among their comrades; and though there is a freedom of ſpirit reigns in the breaſt of Kentiſhmen of every denomination, yet they nevertheleſs preſerve among them a decent ſubordination; for there is no part of the kingdom, where the government of the realm, and the laws and magiſtracy of the country are more chearfully ſubmitted to than in this county.

Such, among many others, which the reader will find particulariſed in the courſe of the enſuing work, are the advantages and peculiar circumſtances, which have together concurred to raiſe *Kent* to that pre-eminence and fame throughout Britain, which the general voice of both antient and modern times has allowed it, and which, in the opinion of every one, it ſtill continues juſtly to deſerve.

Time has not yet deprived this county of its antient name; but as Cæſar, Strabo, Diodorus Siculus, Ptolemy, and others, call it *Cantium*, ſo the Saxons, (as Nennius tells us) named it *Cantguar-lantd*, *i. e.* the country of men inhabiting Kent. In the record of Domeſday it is written, *Chent*, and by us at preſent, *Kent*. The moſt probable conjecture of the etymology of this name is from the ſituation of the place, the Britiſh land here extending itſelf with an angle, or large corner eaſtward towards France.

This county, thus ſituated in the ſouth-eaſtern-moſt part of Britain, over againſt France (from whence its neareſt diſtance over the Channel is about twenty-four miles) is bounded on the north by the river Thames, (excepting that ſmall part of it on the Eſſex ſide of the river, over againſt Woolwich,) and by the Channel; on the ſouth again by the

Channel,

BRITISH MUSEUM



Jas.s Durnford, inv.t et del.

This Plate is gratefully Inscribed,
Member in two succeſsive Parliaments.



to Sir John Henniker, Bart.
for the Town and Port of Dover.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Channel, and the county of Suſſex; and on the weſt by the county of Surry. Its length is about ſixty-ſix miles from weſt to eaſt, and its breadth from north to ſouth about twenty-ſix miles, both being taken at a medium; and it is in circumference one hundred and ſeventy-four miles, or thereabouts. It is ſuppoſed by many to have extended antiently much farther weſtward than it does at preſent, nay, even to have had antient London, then ſituated on the hither or ſouth ſide of the Thames, within its bounds.[a] Indeed it muſt be obſerved, that both Ptolemy, and Ravennas ſpeak of London, as in Kent; and on the ſouth ſide of the Thames, which Gale, in his learned comment on Antoninnus's Itinerary, ſolves thus: that probably a ſtation of that name might be placed on the ſouth ſide of the Thames by the Romans, for the protection and ſecurity of the conqueſts which they had made, before they overcame the Trinobantes, the place in which it was being now called St. George's Fields between Southwark and Lambeth, where many Roman coins, chequered pavements, and urns have been found, and where three Roman roads centered out of Kent, Surry, and Middleſex. This then is ſuppoſed to have been the *Londinium* meant by Ptolemy, and Ravennas, on the ſouth ſide of the river, which became neglected after the Romans had ſubdued the Trinobantes, and driven the Britons farther north, and had ſettled themſelves on the other ſide of the Thames. Having thus accounted for antient London's being placed on the ſouth ſide of the Thames, I muſt add a few words on its having been deſcribed within the boundaries of Kent.

There is no doubt that before the landing of the Romans in Britain, the ſpace of country between Deptford and the Thames, as high up as Lambeth,

[a] Camden's Brit. p. 215, 371. Verſtegan, p. 150. Spelman's Works, part 1. p. 164. Heylin's Hiſt. p. 475.

was a ſwampy marſh, great part of which was conſtantly overflowed by the tide, and as ſuch, of little or no uſe, and indeed uninhabitable. This ſpace then, with the channel of the Thames at its extremity, might be looked on, both by the Trinobantes and Cantiani, as a kind of barrier between them, which might miſlead the antient geographers who ſuppoſed that the territories of the former being bounded by the Thames, and this ſpace of country not belonging to them, muſt, therefore, of conſequence, be part of the adjoining Cantiani; whereas, in fact, it belonged to, or, at leaſt, was claimed by neither.

The Romans afterwards, to ſecure this barrier, drained as much of theſe lands as ſerved their purpoſe, erected a ſtation here, and made roads to it; but on their further conqueſts, removed to the other, or north ſide of the river, where London now ſtands. After which, neither of the above people claiming this diſtrict, it became, in proceſs of time, reputed as part of the country of the Regni, who inhabited Suſſex and Surry, in which laſt county it has continued to this time. Not content with the above acquiſition, the inhabitants of Surry, even ſubſequent to the Norman conqueſt, ſeem to have encroached on the boundaries of the county of Kent. The pariſh of Deptford, having been, by all accounts, wholly within the latter, though now the former claims that part of it in which are the manor and ſeat of Hatcham, the manor of Bredinhurſt, &c.

It has been the opinion of many of our moſt learned antiquaries, among whom are Camden, Somner, and Twine, that France and England, or Gaul and Britain, were antiently joined by an iſthmus or neck of land, where the narrow paſſage is now between Dover and Calais, which many ages ſince, beyond the reach of any hiſtory, perhaps coeval with the general deluge, was, by the ſea's violently beating upon it on both ſides, worn away and broken through

through, whereby what was once an iſthmus is now become a fretum, or narrow ſea.[a] Theſe learned men give us many reaſons, which, if well conſidered, ſeem convincing that there was once ſuch a conjunction. Among others, they urge the nearneſs of land between England and France, that is, from the cliffs of Dover, to the like cliffs lying between Calais and Boulogne; that theſe cliffs, on either ſide of the ſea, lie juſt oppoſite one another, and are both of one ſubſtance, that is chalk and flint, the ſides of both towards the ſea appearing to have been broken off by violence, from ſome more of the ſame ſort, which they had been joined to originally; that the length of them on one ſide of the ſea, is anſwerable to the very like on the other, each reaching about ſix miles in length, and the diſtance between both not exceeding twenty-ſix miles, at which place the ſea is, even at this day, much ſhallower than it is on either ſide of it. To which may be added, that there is a narrow ridge of ſand in the ſea between Folkeſtone and Boulogne, called the Riprapps, diſtant from Folkeſtone about ten miles, and lies S. W. and N. E. in length ten miles; it is a ſtony bottom, and has, at a low ſpring tide, not more than fourteen feet of water on it. Many of the fiſhermen at Folkeſtone have ſeen this ground, and touched it with a fifteen feet oar. Conſequently many large ſhips have ſtruck on it, and ſunk directly in twenty-five fathom water cloſe to it. This ridge runs away to the eaſtward at the back of the Goodwin Sands, and is there called the Falls, which often deceives the ſailor for them; the diſtance between the bank called the Cliff, on the banks of Flanders and the Goodwin, is not above

[a] See the Letter from the learned Dr. Wallis, publiſhed in Phil. Tranſ. No. 275. Somner, by Battely, part ii. p. 251. Phil. Tranſ. No. 272. Twine De Rebus Albion, p. 8. et ſeq. Burt. on Anton. p. 18, 19. Verſtegan, p. 95, 97.

fifteen miles; a ſmall ſpace in a dark ſtormy night, and the Falls are between them both; and there is another ridge or bank, about ſix miles off Dover, called the Vane, on which is very little water at low ſpring tides; but both that and the Riprapps are providentially very narrow, and twenty-five fathoms water cloſe to them. They dwell on the effects, which the great ſeas on both ſides, beating continually with fierce impetuous tides on this iſthmus, muſt have had in proceſs of time, and they account for the parts where they diſcharged their waters before they had, by the deſtruction of it, made a free paſſage for them, and afterwards what lands were raiſed, and left dry, by the breaking down of it. All which is corroborated by inſtances of the like change in different parts of the world, and are, no doubt, ſtrong preſumptions in favour of this hypotheſis.

It has been objected, that there is no mention made in any hiſtory of ſuch an iſthmus, or ſuch a rupture in this place, which being an event ſo very remarkable, muſt have been thought worthy of being reported. Yet this need not be thought ſtrange, conſidering, that in all probability, when this happened, and for a great length of time afterwards, theſe parts were little, if at all, inhabited. And when they were, the inhabitants (even ſuppoſing the tradition of ſuch a matter to have remained among them, which is not very likely) were in ſo uncivilized and barbarous a ſtate as afforded them no means of tranſmitting it to poſterity. And we have no particular account of the Britiſh coaſts, which might determine this queſtion, earlier than the acceſs of the Romans hither with Julius Cæſar.

There have been variety of opinions and conjectures among the learned, concerning the origin of the inhabitants of Britain, ſome deriving them from the Phenicians, and after them the Greeks, others from the Trojans, ſome think Britain to have been peopled by

by colonies from different places, and at different times, and others by Aborigines planted in it by the Divine Omnipotence. Which of theſe opinions comes neareſt to the truth is not within the bounds of my preſent undertaking to diſcuſs; it will be ſufficient for me to obſerve, that the firſt knowledge we have of any inhabitants in this part of Britain, is from Julius Cæſar, whoſe Commentaries are the earlieſt deſcription we have of this country.

At the time the Romans firſt invaded this iſland, under the command of that Emperor, which was about fifty-five years before the birth of Chriſt, Kent was, in general, inhabited by the Belgic Gauls, who had originally come hither for the ſake of making war, and to plunder. This being accompliſhed, many of them, inſtead of returning home, ſettled here, and begun to cultivate the lands, (contrary to the cuſtom of moſt of thoſe who inhabited the inland parts of Britain, who lived on milk and fleſh, got by hunting, and never ſowed any corn,) retaining in general the names of thoſe towns and places from whence they came, and at the time of Cæſar's being here they were become exceeding numerous. Their veſſels, in which they made their ſhort excurſions, are ſaid to have been very ſmall, with their keels and ribs made of ſlight timber, interwoven with wicker, and covered with hides, which ſhews they undertook no long voyages; nay, in all likelihood they never ventured to ſea beyond the coaſt of Gaul, as may be learnt from Cæſar de Bello Civili, lib. i. and from Lucan in theſe verſes in his fourth book:

"Primum cana ſalix madefacto vimine parvam
"Texitur in puppim, cæſoque induta juvenco
"Vectoris patiens tumidum ſuperemicat amnem.
"Sic Venetus ſtagnante Pado, fuſoque Britannus
"Navigat Oceano."

Their towns or villages, were at that time, however, little more than a confuſed parcel of huts, which were built

built after the manner of the Gauls. Cæſar ſays, they had every material, for uſe and building, the ſame as in Gaul, except the fir tree and the beech, which ſhews how little he was acquainted with the face of the country.[a] They were placed at a ſmall diſtance from each other and generally in the middle of a wood, the avenues of which were defended with ramparts of earth, or with the trees, which had been cut down to clear the ground, ſerved them as a place of ſafety to retire to with their cattle, when they were apprehenſive of incurſions from their neighbours. They had great plenty of cattle, and made uſe of braſs money and iron rings, which paſſed by weight. The climate was more temperate here than in Gaul, and the froſts not ſo intenſe. From their origin and their intercourſe with the continent, the inhabitants of Kent (the uſual landing-place from thence) were a far more civilized people than thoſe of any other part of Britain, and their cuſtoms and manners were much the ſame as thoſe of Gaul. The uſe of cloaths was ſcarce known in the iſland; none but the inhabitants of Kent, and the neighbouring coaſts making uſe of any kind of covering, and theſe had only the ſkins of wild beaſts careleſsly thrown over them, not ſo much to defend themſelves againſt the cold, as to avoid giving offence to the ſtrangers who came to traffic with them.

The Britons in general uſed, by way of ornament, to make inciſions in their bodies, in the ſhape of flowers, trees, and animals, which, with the juice of woad, they painted of a ſky colour, that never wore out, and by this means they appeared more dreadful to their enemies in battle. The hair of their heads they wore very long, but ſhaved all the face, except the upper lip; they were tall in their perſons,[b] and

[a] Cæſar de Bell. Gall. lib. v.

[b] Herodianus, lib. iii. cap. 14; Strabo; Diod. Sic. l. 4; Tacitus; Solinus, l. vii. c. 8.

remarkably

remarkably honeſt and ingenuous. They had ſome cuſtoms, eſpecially one as to their marriages, which were greatly reprobated by other nations. This prevailed along time among them, though, in other reſpects, they grew much more civilized by their intercourſe with the Romans when maſters of this iſland. In general they lived to a great age, probably owing to their exerciſe, ſobriety, and temperance, as well as the wholeſomneſs of the climate.[c] The few particulars abovementioned are chiefly gathered from Cæſar's account of his expeditions hither, during which, however, he ſaw little of this country, and met ſuch a warm reception from the brave inhabitants of it, much more ſo, it is believed, than he chooſes to own. In confirmation of which, Lucan, in his ſecond book, ſays—

"Territa quæſitis oſtendit terga Britannis."

And Tibullus, in his fourth book—

....."Invictus Romano marte Britannus."

Horace hints as much, calling the Briton

"Intactus Britannus."

Tacitus tells us, Cæſar did not conquer Britain, but only ſhewed it to the Romans; and Dion Caſſius ſays, Cæſar acquired nothing in Britain, either to himſelf or Rome, but the glory of having made an expedition thither, which he greatly exaggerated in his letters ſent to Rome on this occaſion. He could therefore neither have time nor opportunity himſelf to obſerve much either of their cuſtoms or manners; indeed, what he has told us muſt, in general, be underſtood as relating to the inhabitants of Kent,

[c] Cæſar Ib. Dion Caſſius, lib. xxxix. lib. lxxvi. See Pomp. Mela, lib. iii. c. 6. Cæſar Bell. Gall. lib. vi. cap. 12. See note in Camden, p. xv.

the

the only part of Britain he can be ſaid to be at all acquainted with; and as this is the only deſcription we have of that time, we muſt be ſatisfied with it, and with what we find ſcattered in ſucceeding authors, who themſelves, perhaps, knew but very little of the matter.

Though we know the Druids, as well among the Britons as the Gauls, had the care and direction of all religious matters, yet we have nothing certain transmitted to us concerning them in this iſland: nor can we form any idea of their religion, but by that of the Gauls, which Cæſar has given us ſome knowledge of; indeed, we could not expect it ſhould be better known to us, conſidering the Druids committed nothing to writing, it being their cuſtom to teach their diſciples every thing by heart. The name Druid is derived from the word *Deru*, ſignifying in the Britiſh or Celtic language, an *oak*, like Δρῦς, in the Greek; and they acquired it not only becauſe their uſual reſidence was in groves among oaks, (a tree they had ſuch a profound veneration for, that they never performed any of their ceremonies without ſome of the branches or leaves of it) but from their eſteeming nothing more ſacred than the *miſletoe*, which grew on them.[a]

As the religion of this part of Britain may be learned from that of the Gauls, an idea of its government may likewiſe be formed the ſame way; for as the people of both countries had the ſame extraction, they had, very probably, the ſame form of government. From the earlieſt accounts, the Gauls were divided into ſeveral petty ſtates, with a head, or chief, over each; ſome of theſe being more powerful than the reſt, kept their neighbours in a ſort of dependence; and one of them, upon great and imminent dangers, was, by the common conſent of the neighbouring ſtates, choſen commander in chief over them

[a] Plin. lib. xvi. cap. 44.

all,

all, whoſe power ceaſed, as ſoon as ever the circumſtance for which he was appointed was at an end. During his office he was conſidered as a ſovereign magiſtrate, having power to put the laws in execution, and as captain-general of all their forces.

Like to this government was that of the Britons, which, in all likelihood, began in Kent, and thence ſpread itſelf over great part of this iſland. For the whole country, between the Channel and the Tine, was divided into ſeventeen petty ſtates, each of which had its head, or chief. Indeed, Kent, when Cæſar invaded Britain, had four princes, or chiefs, in it, as will be ſhewn hereafter. At which time the command of the united forces of the Britons, to oppoſe the Romans, was, by common conſent, conferred on Caſſivelaun, whom Cæſar ſtyles king of the Trinobantes, as it was afterwards, in the time of Claudius, on Caractacus, king of the Silures. Theſe nations, or ſtates, without doubt, depending on each other, no farther than neceſſity compelled them, had frequent quarrels and conteſts, of which we have not the leaſt knowledge before Cæſar's time.[b] From thence to the period of this iſland's being freed from the dominion of the conquering Romans, the account of their tranſactions here, may, in ſome meaſure, be carried on, though there muſt occur ſeveral large breaks in the thread of it, which it is not poſſible to avoid, as we have ſo few authors who have treated on this ſubject.

BRITAIN was in the ſtate above-mentioned when *Cæſar* turned his thoughts to the invaſion of it, at which time the Romans were become maſters of almoſt all Europe, the beſt part of Africa, and the

[b] Diod. Sic. lib. iv. Pomp. Mela, lib. iii. cap. vi. Tacitus in Vit. Agric.

richeſt

richeſt countries of Aſia. Whilſt they were continually adding ſo many kingdoms to their empire, Britain ſtill preſerved its independency, for which it was indebted to its remote ſituation, more than to its ſtrength. It was conſidered by the inhabitants of the continent as a ſeparate world, of which (excepting in the maritime parts oppoſite to it,) they had very little knowledge, and what they had did not excite their deſires to extend their dominion over it. Julius Cæſar, during his wars with the Gauls, had taken great umbrage at the ſupplies which the neighbouring parts of Britain had continually ſent to them: at leaſt this was the ſpecious pretence for his leading his forces hither; a pretence frequently made uſe of by the Romans, to carry their conqueſts into the moſt remote countries; though his unbounded ambition was, moſt probably, the ſole motive that urged him to it. It was in the 698th year after the building of Rome, and fifty-five years before the birth of Chriſt; Cn. Pompey and Marcus Lic. Craſſus being then conſuls of Rome, that Julius Cæſar reſolved to undertake a voyage into Britain, and though the ſummer was then almoſt ſpent, he would by no means delay it; not that he expected the advanced ſeaſon of the year would permit him to carry on the war, yet he thought it would be of no ſmall uſe to him, if he only landed and diſcovered ſomething of the nature of the inhabitants, the country, and its havens. To gain some intelligence, therefore, Cæſar ſummoned together all the merchants round about, but he could not learn from any of them, either what the ſize of Britain was, what or how many nations inhabited it, what progreſs they had made in the art of war, what cuſtoms they uſed, or what number of ſhips their ports were capable of receiving.[a] This uncertainty made him determine to ſend out C. Volu-

[a] Cæſar Com. de Bell. Gall. lib. iv. cap. 20. et ſeq. Horſ. Brit. Rom. p. 3. Suet in vit. Cæſ.

ſenus

ſenus with a galley, to make what diſcoveries he could without danger. In the mean time he himſelf marched with all his forces into the country of the Morini, now the province of Picardy, from whence the paſſage into Britain was ſaid to be the ſhorteſt, and thither he ordered the ſhipping from all the neighbouring parts.

Whilſt theſe preparations were going forward, the merchants gave notice to the Britons of Cæſar's deſign, who ſent meſſengers to him, in hopes of diverting him from his purpoſe, promiſing to deliver hoſtages, and to ſubmit themſelves to the Roman empire.

Cæsar gave them a civil reception, made them liberal promiſes, and, encouraging them to perſiſt in their reſolution, ſent them home again.

Along with them he ſent Comius, whom he had made king of the Attrebates, in Gaul, a perſon, whoſe intereſt in thoſe parts was accounted very great, and whoſe fidelity Cæſar had a great opinion of. He commanded Comius to viſit as many ſtates as he could, and perſuade them to accept of an alliance with the Romans, and farther, to tell them, that he would very quickly be over with them in perſon. Voluſenus, in the mean time, having made what diſcoveries he could of the country, for he durſt not venture himſelf aſhore, after five days cruizing, returned, and acquainted Cæſar with all he had ſeen; who having, in the mean time, got together eighty tranſports, which he thought ſufficient to carry over the foot of his two legions, beſides his gallies, and eighteen more tranſports for the horſe, which lay wind-bound at another port, eight miles diſtant, ſet ſail with the foot about one o'clock in the morning, and left orders for the horſe to march to the other port, and to embark there, and follow him as ſoon as they could.[b] Cæsar himſelf, with the foremoſt of

[b] Cæſar Ib. cap. 23. See H. Huntingdon, lib. i. p. 301.

his

his ſhips, arrived on the coaſt of Britain about ten o'clock the ſame morning, where he ſaw all the cliffs covered by the enemy in arms, and he obſerved (what would render the execution of his deſign moſt difficult at this place) that, the ſea being narrow, and pent in by the hills, the Britons could eaſily throw their darts from thence upon the ſhore beneath. Not thinking this place proper therefore for landing, he came to an anchor, and waited for the reſt of his fleet till three in the afternoon; after which, having got both wind and tide for him, he weighed anchor, and ſailed about eight miles farther, and then came to a plain and open ſhore, where he ordered the ſhips to bring to. The Britons being appriſed of his deſign, ſent their horſe and chariots before, and following after with the reſt of the army, endeavoured to prevent their landing. Here the Romans laboured under very great difficulties, for their ſhips, on account of their ſize, could not lie near the ſhore, and their ſoldiers with their hands encumbered and loaded with heavy armour, were obliged to contend, at the same time both with the waves and the enemy, in a place they were unacquainted with; whereas the Britons, either ſtanding upon dry ground, or but a little way in the water, in places with which they were well acquainted, and being free and unincumbered, could boldly caſt their darts, and ſpur their horſes forward, which were uſed to this kind of combat, which diſadvantage ſo diſcouraged the Romans, who were unuſed to this way of fighting, that they did not behave themſelves with the ſame ſpirit that they uſed to do, in their engagements on dry land.

Cæſar perceiving this, gave orders for the gallies to advance gently before the reſt of the fleet, and to row along with their broadſides towards the ſhore, and then by every kind of miſſive weapon to drive the enemy away. This piece of conduct was of conſiderable ſervice to them, for the Britons being terrified,

fied, quickly after began to give ground; upon which the ſoldiers, though at firſt unwilling, encouraging one another, leaped down into the ſea, from the ſeveral ſhips, and preſſed forward towards the enemy. The conflict was ſharply maintained on both ſides; in which the Romans, not being able either to keep their ranks, obtain firm footing, or follow their particular ſtandards, fell into great diſorder; whilſt the Britons, who were well acquainted with the ſhallows, ſpurring their horſes forward, aſſaulted the enemy, incumbered and unprepared to receive them. Cæſar obſerving this, cauſed the boats and pinnaces to be filled with ſoldiers, and diſpatched them to the relief of thoſe who ſtood in need of it; theſe charged the Britons, and quickly put them to flight, but could not purſue, as their horſe were not then arrived. The Britons, upon this, as ſoon as they had eſcaped beyond the reach of danger, ſent meſſengers to deſire peace, promiſing to deliver hoſtages for the performance of whatever Cæſar had commanded. He at firſt upbraided, and then pardoned, their imprudence, and demanded hoſtages of them; ſome of which they delivered immediately, and promiſed to return in a few days, with the reſt: in the mean time they diſperſed their men, and the chiefs aſſembled from all parts, and recommended themſelves and their ſtates to Cæſar's protection.

Upon the fourth day after Cæſar's arrival in Britain, the tranſports with the horſe, of which mention has been already made, ſet ſail with a gentle gale; but when they were arrived ſo near as to be within view of the Roman camp, the whole fleet was diſperſed by a ſudden ſtorm, and afterwards, though with much difficulty, made the beſt of its way back to the continent. The ſame night the moon was at full, and, conſequently, it made a ſpring tide, an obſervation the Romans were ſtrangers to; ſo that at the ſame time both the gallies, which had been drawn on

ſhore, were filled with water, and the ſhips of burthen, which rode at anchor, were greatly diſtreſſed and damaged. Several of them were loſt, and the reſt were rendered wholly unfit for ſervice, which cauſed a great conſternation throughout their whole army; for they had no other ſhips to carry them back again, nor any materials to refit their own with; and they knew very well they muſt of neceſſity take up their winter quarters in Gaul, as there was no proviſion of corn againſt winter made for them here. As ſoon as the Britiſh chiefs, who had been aſſembled to perform their agreement with Cæſar, knew of this, and that the Romans were without horſes, ſhips, and proviſions, concluding from the ſmallneſs of their camp, (which was then narrower than uſual, becauſe the legions had left their heavy baggage in Gaul) that their ſoldiers were but few, they reſolved upon a revolt, and to hinder the Romans from foraging, and delay them till winter; imagining that if they could but gain a victory over them, or prevent their return, none would ever dare to make ſuch another attempt; and having entered into a new confederacy, they began by degrees to quit the Roman camp, and privately to enliſt their diſbanded troops again.[a]

Though Cæſar knew nothing of their deſign, yet ſuſpecting, from the loſs of his ſhipping, and their delay in the delivery of their hoſtages, what afterwards really happened, prepared for all events, cauſing proviſions to be brought into his camp every day, and repairing the ſhips that were leaſt damaged. By which means, with the loſs of twelve, he made the reſt fit for ſea again. Whilſt matters were in this ſituation, the ſeventh legion, whoſe turn it was, went out to forage, whilſt ſome of the men were employed in the fields, and others in carrying the corn between them and the camp, the out-guards gave

[a] Cæſar de Bell. Gall. lib. iv. cap. 25 et ſeq.

Cæſar

Cæſar notice, that they obſerved a greater duſt than uſual, in that part of the country to which the legion went. Upon which, ſuſpecting that the Britons had revolted, he took with him the cohorts that were placed for an advanced guard, and commanded the reſt to repair to their arms, and follow him as faſt as poſſible. He had not marched far before he ſaw his foragers overcharged by the Britons, and drove into a ſmall compaſs; for the Britons, knowing there was but one place where the harveſt had not been carried in, ſuſpected the Romans would come there, and having hid themſelves the night before in the woods, ſuddenly ſet upon the ſoldiers, who had laid down their arms, and were diſperſed and buſy in reaping the corn, and having killed ſome of them, they put the reſt in diſorder, and then ſurrounded them with their horſe and chariots. Their way of fighting with their chariots was this; firſt they drove up and down every where, and flung their darts about, the very terror and noiſe of their horſes and chariots frequently putting the ranks of the enemy in diſorder; and whenever they got in among the ranks of the horſe, they alighted, and fought on foot. Their charioteers, in the mean time, drove a little way out of the battle, and placed themſelves in ſuch a manner, that if their maſters ſhould be overpowered by the numbers of the enemy, they might readily retreat to them. Thus they performed in their battles all the activity of the horſe, and the ſteadineſs of the foot, at the ſame time, and were ſo expert, by daily uſe and exerciſe, that even, when they were going full ſpeed on the ſide of a ſteep hill, they could ſtop their horſes and turn, run upon the pole, reſt on the harneſs, and thence throw themſelves, with great dexterity, into their chariots again. The Romans being diſordered by this new kind of fight, Cæſar came very opportunely to their aſſiſtance; for on his arrival the Britons made a ſtand, and the Romans

began to forget their fears. However, not thinking it adviſable to venture an engagement at that time, after remaining on the ſame ſpot for a little while, he retreated with his legions to the camp. The badneſs of the weather, which followed after this for ſeveral days ſucceſſively, kept the Romans in their camp, and the Britons from attempting any thing againſt them. In the mean time the latter ſent meſſengers to all parts, to give information of the ſmallneſs of the Roman army, and to ſhew how conſiderable a booty they might obtain, and what a glorious opportunity then offered of making themſelves free for ever, if they could but force the enemy's camp; by which means they quickly raiſed great numbers of horſe and foot, and came down to it for that purpoſe. Although Cæſar foreſaw, that the Britons, in caſe they were routed, would, as they had done before, eſcape the danger by flight, yet having got thirty horſe, which Comius of Arras brought over with him, he drew his legions up in order of battle before the camp, and having engaged the Britons, who were not long able to ſuſtain the attack, put them to flight, and the ſoldiers purſuing them as far as they could, killed many of them, and burnt all their houſes for ſome diſtance round. The very ſame day, the Britons ſent meſſengers to deſire a peace, when Cæſar demanded double the number of hoſtages he had before to be ſent into Gaul, for the autumnal equinox being near, he did not think it ſafe to ſail with ſuch weak ſhips in the winter ſeaſon; ſeizing, therefore, the firſt favorable opportunity of the wind's being fair, he ſet ſail ſoon after midnight, and arrived ſafe at the continent.[a] Probably he left this iſland about the 20th of September, about twenty-five days after his landing, and, as he ſays, a little before the equinox, which at that time muſt have been on the the 25th of that month.

[a] Cæſar de Bell. Gall. lib. iv. cap. 31, et ſeq.

This

This is Cæſar's account of this ſhort expedition, which, however plauſible he may have dreſſed it up in his Commentaries, yet his ſudden departure in the night, immediately following the battle, carries with it a ſtrong ſuſpicion of his having been beaten by the Britons. Horace, Tibullus, and Lucan, ſeem to confirm it, as do Tacitus and Dion Caſſius in their hiſtories.

A more modern writer of our own nation, H. Huntingdon, who lived about an hundred years after the Norman conqueſt, ſays, that Cæſar was diſappointed in his hopes; for on his landing he had a ſharper conflict with the Britons than he could have believed, and perceiving that his forces were too few for ſuch an enterpriſe, and that the enemy was much more powerful than he imagined, he was of neceſſity compelled to re-embark, and that then, being caught in a ſtorm, he loſt the greateſt part of his fleet, a great number of his ſoldiers, and almoſt all his cavalry; at which, being diſmayed, he returned to Gaul, ſorely wounded at his diſappointment.[b]

M. Weſtminſter ſays much the ſame, as does Bede.[c] Polidore Virgil, an Italian, who is always ſevere on the Engliſh, in his hiſtory, tells us, the report was, that Cæſar, being routed by the Britons at the firſt encounter, fled into Gaul.[d]

Dr. Halley publiſhed a diſcourſe (in Philoſ. Tranſ. No. 193) to prove at what time Cæſar landed in Britain, in which he makes it plain, that the cliffs mentioned by Cæſar were thoſe of Dover, and that from the tide, and other circumſtances, the Downs was the place where he landed.[e]

In this expedition Cæſar made no advances into the country; the unexpected oppoſition he met with prevented whatever deſigns he might have had towards it.

[b] H. Huntingdon, lib. i. p. 301.
[c] Lib. i. cap. 2. [d] P. 27.
[e] See Horſ. Brit. Rom. p. ix. Cæſar de Bell. Gall. cap. 24.

Upon the whole, the reſult of this attempt ſeems to have been no more than a diſcovery of the moſt convenient place of landing, and that, if he again attempted the conqueſt of this country, he ſtood in need of a much ſuperior force, than what he had then with him. The Britons, it ſeems, were not much awed by the Romans; for of all the ſtates into which this iſland was then divided, two only ſent hoſtages. Provoked at this contempt, Cæſar determined to make a ſecond invaſion next year, with a far more powerful fleet and army. For which purpoſe, when he left his winter quarters in Gaul, as he uſually did every year to go into Italy, he gave orders to his lieutenants, who were to command the legions in his abſence, that they ſhould build, during the winter, as many ſhips as they could, and repair the old ones. And at the ſame time he ſhewed them the manner and form in which he would have them made, directing them to be built ſomething lower than they uſed to be in the Mediterranean, that the ſoldiers might both embark and get aſhore again with greater eaſe; and likewiſe broader than ordinary, as more convenient for the number of horſes he intended carrying in them, and to contrive them all for oars, for which the lowneſs of them would be very proper. On Cæſar's return to his army, he found that the ſoldiers, by their unparalleled diligence, had already built ſix hundred ſuch ſhips as he had ordered, and twenty-nine gallies, which would be ready to be launched within a few days. Upon which he commanded them all to meet him at the *Portus Itius*, from whence he knew there was the moſt convenient paſſage into Britain, which here was about thirty miles from the continent. Where this port was has been variouſly conjectured; Mr. Camden, and Ortelius, ſuppoſe it to have been Witſon. Cluverius, and after him Somner, Battely, and others, ſuppoſe Boulogne to have been the Portus Itius here mentioned by Cæſar.—

Lambard,

Lambarde, Horſley, and others, join with Dr. Halley in placing it at or ſomewhere near Calais. The latter of theſe in his diſcourſe mentioned above, (Phil. Tranſ. No. 193) founds his opinion on arguments drawn from the navigation of thoſe times, and Cæſar's deſcription of his voyage. He further obſerves, that Cæſar's diſtance of the paſſage from Portus Itius to Britain comes very near the truth, for by an accurate ſurvey, the diſtance at Calais, from land to land, is twenty-ſix Engliſh miles, or twenty-eight and a half Roman.

From hence he ſet ſail for Britain with five legions, and the ſame number of horſe he had left with Labienus, about ſun-ſet, with a gentle ſouth-weſt wind. About midnight it fell calm, and the fleet being driven by the tide, Cæſar, at day-break, found he had left Britain on the left hand. But the tide turning, they fell to their oars, in order to reach that part of it where they had the year before found the beſt landing. Cæſar arrived on the coaſt of Britain about noon, with his whole fleet, but there was no enemy to be ſeen; though as he afterwards learned from the priſoners, the inhabitants had been there in vaſt multitudes, but being terrified at the number of the ſhips, (which, together with the tranſports, and other veſſels which particular officers had prepared for their own accommodation, amounted to above eight hundred,) they had fled from the ſhore, and had hid themſelves among the hills. Having landed his army without oppoſition, and choſen a proper place to encamp in, when he had learned from the priſoners, where the Britiſh forces were poſted, about midnight Cæſar marched in queſt of them, having left ten cohorts, and three hundred horſe, under the command of Q. Atrius, to guard the ſhips, which he was the leſs uneaſy for, as he left them at anchor, on a ſoft and open ſhore.[a]

[a] Cæſar de Bell. Gall. lib. v.

When he had marched about twelve miles, he diſcovered the Britons, who, having advanced with their horſe and chariots to the banks of a river, began, from a riſing ground to oppoſe the paſſage of the Romans, and to give them battle; but being repulſed by the Roman cavalry, they retired to a place in the woods, which was fortified both by art and nature, in an extraordinary manner, and which ſeemed to have been ſo prepared ſome time before, on account of their own civil wars. All the paſſages to it were blocked up by heaps of trees, cut down for that purpoſe, and the Britons ſeldom venturing to ſkirmiſh out of the woods, prevented the Romans from entering their works; but the ſoldiers of the ſeventh legion, having caſt themſelves into a teſtudo, and raiſed a mount againſt their works, after having received a few wounds, took the place, and drove them out of the woods; Cæsar however would not permit them to follow the purſuit, becauſe he was unacquainted with the country, and the day being already far ſpent, he was deſirous of employing the reſt of it in fortifying his camp.

Various have been the conjectures of our antiquaries concerning this place of the Britons fortified both by art and nature. Horſley thinks it likely, that this engagement was on the banks of the river Stour, a little to the north of Durovernum, or Canterbury, in the way towards Sturry, which is about fourteen Engliſh miles from the Downs; others well acquainted with this part of Kent, have conjectured it to have been on the banks of the rivulet below Barham-downs, and that the fortification of the Britons was in the woods behind Kingſton, towards Burſted; and the diſtance as well as the ſituation of this place, and the continued remains of Roman works about it, almoſt in a continued line to Deal, add ſome ſtrength to this conjecture. Some have placed this encounter below Swerdling downs, three miles north-weſt from Burſted,

Burſted, and the intrenchment in the woods above the downs behind Heppington, where many remains of intrenchments, &c. are ſtill viſible. Perhaps the engagement was below Barham-down; the fortification near Burſted, as before-mentioned; and the remains above Swerdling, the place to which the Britons retreated, after they were put to flight by the Romans, and where Cæſar again found them, after he had fortified his camp, with their allies, under the command of Caſſivelaun.

The next morning, having divided his army into three bodies, Cæſar ſent both his horſe and foot in purſuit of the Britons; ſoon after which, before the rear of them had got out of ſight, ſome horſemen arrived from Q. Atrius, to acquaint him, that the night before there had happened a dreadful ſtorm, which had ſhattered almoſt all his ſhips, and caſt them on the ſhore, for neither anchors nor cables could hold them, nor could all the ſkill of the mariners and pilots reſiſt the force of the tempeſt, ſo that the fleet, from the great number of ſhipping lying together, received conſiderable damage. Upon this intelligence the Roman general, countermanding his forces, returned himſelf in perſon to the fleet, and there found that about forty of his ſhips were entirely loſt, and that the reſt of them were ſo much damaged, as not to be refitted without great trouble and labour. Wherefore, having choſen ſome workmen for this purpoſe from among his ſoldiers, and ſent for others from the continent, he wrote to Labienus, to build him as many ſhips as he could with thoſe legions that were left with him; and he himſelf determined, though it would be an affair that would be attended with great toil and labour, to have his fleet hauled on ſhore, and to incloſe it with his camp, within the ſame fortification. In the execution of which, the ſoldiers laboured ten days and nights without intermiſſion, and at this day, upon the ſhore

about

about Deal, Sandown, and Walmer, there is a long range of heaps of earth, where Camden ſuppoſes this ſhip camp to have been, and which in his time, he ſays, was called by the people, as he was told, Rome's work.[a] Though ſome have conjectured, and perhaps with ſome probability, that the place of Cæſar's naval camp was where the town of Deal now ſtands. When the ſhipping being drawn on ſhore, and the camp exceedingly well fortified, Cæsar left the ſame guard over the fleet as he had before, and returned to the place where he had deſiſted from purſuing the Britons. On his arrival, he found they had aſſembled their forces there in greater numbers from all parts than when he left the place before. By general conſent the chief command and management of the war was intruſted to Caſſivelaun, whoſe territories were divided from the maritime ſtates by the river Thames, about eighty miles diſtant from the ſea. There had been before that time continual wars between Caſſivelaun and the reſt of the ſtates in the iſland; but the Britons, being terrified on the arrival of the Romans, had conferred the chief direction of affairs on him at ſo important a conjuncture. Whilſt the Romans were on their march they were briſkly attacked by the Britiſh horſe and chariots, whom they repulſed, with great ſlaughter, and drove them into the woods; but being too eager in the purſuit, loſt ſome of their own men. Not long after this the Britons made a ſudden ſally out of the woods, and ſharply attacked the advanced guard of the Romans, who little expected them, and were employed in fortifying their camp; upon which Cæsar immediately diſpatched the two firſt cohorts of his legions to their aſſiſtance; but the Britons, whilſt the ſoldiers ſtood amazed at their new way of fighting, boldly broke through the midſt of them, and returned again without the loſs of a man.[b] Quintus Laberius Durus was ſlain in this ac-

[a] Camd. Brit. p. 248. [b] Cæsar Ibid. cap. 15.

tion,

tion, but ſome freſh cohorts coming up, the Britons were at laſt repulſed. This is Cæſar's account; but our hiſtorian, Henry of Huntingdon, ſays,[c] that in this engagement, Labienus, the tribune, and his battalion, being incompaſſed by the Britons, were all ſlain, and Cæſar perceiving the day was loſt, and that the Britons were to be encountered more by art than ſtrength, determined, before his loſs was too great, to ſave himſelf by flight; upon which the Britons, purſuing the Romans, killed many of them, and were at laſt reſtrained, only by the contiguity of the woods; and Bede goes farther, and tells us, the Britons gained the victory.[d]

This engagement happening in the view of the whole Roman army, they all perceived that the legionary ſoldiers were not equal to cope with ſuch an enemy, as the weight of their armour would not permit them to purſue, nor durſt they go too far from their colours. Neither could their cavalry encounter them without great danger, as the Britons often counterfeited a retreat, and having drawn them from the legions, would leap from their chariots and fight on foot, to a great advantage. For the engagements of the cavalry, whether they retreated or purſued, were attended with one and the ſame danger. To which may be added, that the Britons never fought in cloſe battalions, but in ſmall parties, at a great diſtance from one another, each of them having their particular poſt allotted, whence they received ſupplies, and the weary were relieved by thoſe who were freſh and untired. The next day the Britons poſted themſelves on the hills, at ſome diſtance from the Roman camp, appearing but ſeldom, and with leſs eagerneſs to harraſs the enemy's horſe than the day before. But about noon, when Cæsar had ſent out three legions and all the cavalry, under the command of C. Trebonius, to forage, they ſuddenly ruſhed on

[c] Lib. i. p. 301. [d] Lib. i. cap. 2.

the

the foragers from all parts, inſomuch as to fall in with the legions and their ſtandards. But the Romans returning the attack briſkly, drove them back, nor did the cavalry, (who depended on the legions, which followed cloſe after, to ſuſtain them in caſe of neceſſity) deſiſt from purſuing the Britons, till they had entirely routed them. Great numbers of whom were ſlain; for the Romans purſued them ſo cloſe, that they had no opportunity either of rallying, making a ſtand, or forſaking their chariots. Upon this rout the Britiſh auxiliaries, which had come from all parts, left them; nor did the Britons ever after this engage the Romans with their united forces.—From hence Cæſar marched his army to the river Thames, towards the territories of Caſſivelaun, which river was fordable only in one place, and that with great difficulty, and on his arrival there, he ſaw the Britiſh forces drawn up in a conſiderable body on the oppoſite bank, which was fortified with ſharp ſtakes; they had likewiſe driven many ſtakes of the ſame ſort ſo deep into the bottom of the river, that the tops of them were covered with the water. Notwithſtanding Cæſar had intelligence of this from the priſoners and deſerters, yet he ordered his army to paſs the river, which they did with ſuch reſolution and entrepidity, (though the water took them up to the neck) that the Britons, not being able to ſuſtain their aſſault, abandoned the bank, and fled. Caſſivelaun, now deſpairing of ſucceſs by a battle, diſbanded the greateſt part of his forces, and contented himſelf with watching the motions of the Romans, from time to time, and betaking himſelf to the woods, and other places, inacceſſible to the Romans. In the mean time ſeveral ſtates had ſubmitted themſelves to Cæſar; and Caſſivelaun, to divert him from purſuing his conqueſts, ſent his meſſengers into Kent, which was then governed by four petty princes; Cingetorix, Carnilius, Taximagulus, and Segonax, whom

whom Cæſar ſtiles *Kings*, and commanded them to raiſe what forces they could, and ſuddenly attack the camp where his ſhips were laid up; which they did, but were repulſed, with great ſlaughter, in a ſally made by the Romans, who took Cingetorix priſoner, and returned, without any loſs, to their trenches.

Upon the news of this defeat Caſſivelaun, reflecting on the many loſſes he had ſuſtained, that his country was laid waſte, and that ſeveral of the neighbouring ſtates had ſubmitted, ſent meſſengers to Cæſar to treat of a ſurrender. As the ſummer was already far ſpent, Cæſar, who was determined to winter in Gaul, to prevent ſudden incurſions there, readily hearkened to their propoſals, demanded hoſtages, and impoſed an annual tribute on the country. Having received the hoſtages he marched his army back to the ſea ſhore; where, finding his ſhips refitted, he cauſed them to be launched, and as he had a great number of captives, and ſome of his ſhips had been loſt in the ſtorm, he reſolved to tranſport his army at two voyages. But as moſt of the ſhips which were ſent back from Gaul, after they had landed the ſoldiers that were firſt carried over, and of thoſe which Labienus had built for him, were driven back by contrary winds, Cæſar, after having long expected them in vain, leſt the winter ſhould prevent his voyage, the equinox being near at hand, crouded his ſoldiers cloſer than he deſigned, and taking the opportunity of an extraordinary calm, ſet ſail about ten o'clock at night, and arrived ſafe with his whole fleet at the continent by break of day. It is conjectured, that this ſecond expedition of Cæſar's was in May, and that he returned to Gaul about the middle of September; for, in a letter to Cicero, from Britain, dated September the 1ſt, he ſays, he was come to the ſea ſide in order to embark.

Such is the account given by Cæſar of his two expeditions into Britain, who, in penning his Commentaries, ſeems to have framed the whole much to his own advantage,

advantage. Indeed, no one can read the particulars of theſe expeditions in them without being ſenſible, that ſome circumſtances muſt have been omitted, (for, in ſome parts, he is ſcarce conſiſtent with himſelf,) and that whatever was not to his honour, he has paſſed over in ſilence. As a proof of which, let us conſider Cæſar's deſign in paſſing over hither, and attacking the Britons, and the events of it. He tells us, that he made a deſcent, with two legions only, in an enemy's country, in the ſight of an army, formidable for number, bravery, and peculiar method of fighting, and afterwards in a battle put their united forces to flight. That on his landing, with a much larger force, *the ſecond time*, he drove the Britons from their advantageous poſt on the banks of a river, and afterwards from their ſtrong fortification in the woods; that he then routed the Britiſh army and their auxiliaries, which had been aſſembled from all parts of the iſland; and, what is more wonderful, he paſſed the Thames at a ford, which was guarded by a numerous army, ſtuck full of ſharp ſtakes, and ſo deep as to take the ſoldiers up to their chins. Such continued ſcenes of good fortune, it would be imagined, would have ſecured him ſucceſs in the deſign and reſolution with which he ſet ſail from Gaul, of conquering Britain, and reducing it to a Roman province, as Dion Caſſius poſitively aſſerts. Yet, notwithstanding his gaining ſuch victories over the Britons every where; his paſſing the Thames in ſpight of every obſtacle, his vanquiſhing and routing Caſſivelaun, and obliging him to diſband moſt of his forces, in deſpair of being able to cope with him; his becoming maſter of the capital of that prince; and the Britons ſubmitting and ſuing for peace: notwithſtanding all theſe advantages, he was content with ordering Mandubratius to be reſtored, in the room of Caſſivelaun, to the kingdom of the Trinobantes; which command was never executed; for on Caſſivelaun's making his ſubmiſſion to Cæſar,

Cæſar, he reſtored him again to his favour, only impoſing an eaſy tribute on him, and then quickly, without fortifying any one place, or leaving any troops in the iſland, he ſet ſail again for the continent.

So trivial a ſatisfaction, inſtead of the conqueſt of Britain, evidently ſhews, that the ſucceſs acquired by Cæſar, in theſe expeditions, came far ſhort of the idea he endeavours to give us of it. It ſerves to confirm the teſtimony of Lucan, who taxes him with turning his back to the Britons; of Dion Caſſius, who ſays, the Roman infantry were entirely routed in a battle by them, and that Cæſar retired from hence without effecting any thing; and of Tacitus, who writes, that Cæſar rather ſhewed the Romans the way to Britain, than put them in poſſeſſion of it; and who in another place makes one of the Britons ſay, that their anceſtors had driven out Julius Cæſar from this iſland.[a]

WHATEVER promiſes the Britons had made to Cæſar, in order to get rid of him, they troubled themſelves little about the performance of them; and the civil wars which enſued among the Romans were, in great meaſure, the cauſe of their neglect of Britain, which continued a long while after peace was reſtored, as Tacitus elegantly expreſſes in theſe words:— "Next follow the civil wars, and the arms of the "princes turned againſt the common-wealth; and "hence Britain was long forgot, even in peace."[b] This neglect of Britain continued till the reign of Claudius, near the ſpace of a whole century, as all the Roman hiſtorians acknowledge;[c] during which time the inhabitants of it lived at their own diſpoſal; and,

[a] Lucan, lib. ii. ver. 572. Dion Caſſius, lib. xxxix. and xl. Tacitus in vit. Agric. cap. 13. and Annal. lib. xii. cap. 34.
[b] Tacitus in vit. Agric. cap. 13.
[c] Sueton. in vit. Claud. c. 17. Eutrop. lib. vii. c. 13.

as

as Dion ſays, were governed by their own kings. Auguſtus, indeed, twice made a ſhew of compelling the Britons to fulfil their promiſes made to his predeceſſor; and Horace has paid Auguſtus a compliment on this occaſion in more than one of his odes;[a] but the Britiſh princes, by courting his friendſhip by preſents and artful addreſſes, found means to perſuade him to give over his deſign; and Cunobeline, who is ſaid to have ſucceeded Tenuantius, the ſucceſſor of Caſſivelaun, even cauſed coins to be ſtamped after the manner of the Romans; ſome of which are ſtill to be ſeen in the cabinets of the curious, having the word *Taſcia* on their reverſe, ſignifying, according to our antiquaries, *tribute*; for the payment of which it is concluded this money was deſigned; for though braſs and iron rings of a certain weight ſerved, as Cæſar informs us, for their current coin, yet the Romans exacted their tribute in gold and ſilver, of which latter metal are theſe coins. Caligula, the ſucceſſor of Tiberius, formed a deſign againſt Britain, but never put it in execution, which Tacitus aſcribes to his inſtability, and the ill ſucceſs of his vaſt enterpriſes in Germany; and Suetonius tells us, that he did no more than receive Adminius, (called alſo by our writers Guiderius) the ſon of Cunobeline, who ſurrendered himſelf to that emperor with the few men he had with him, having been expelled his own country by his father. Indeed he made a kind of mock expedition with his army as far as the ſea ſhore oppoſite to Britain; but being informed the Britons were prepared to receive him, inſtead of purſuing his deſign, he ordered his ſoldiers to fill their helmets with ſhells, which he called the ſpoils of the conquered ocean; and then ſending his vainglorious letters to the ſenate, implying the conqueſt of Britain, he ſoon followed them to Rome himſelf.[b]

[a] Lib. iii. ode 5; lib. iv. ode 15; and lib. i. ode 35.

[b] Tacitus in Vita Agric. Strabo. Suet. in Calig. Dion. lib. lix. See Camden's Introd. p. cxix.

The

The Britons may be ſaid to have continued hitherto free from the Roman yoke; but in the reign of Claudius, the ſucceſſor of Caligula, great part of the iſland was brought under ſubjection to Rome, and the reſt by degrees under the ſucceeding emperors. In the time of the emperor Claudius, Cunobeline being dead, his two ſons, Togodumnus and Caractacus, reigned in Britain in his ſtead. In their reign, one Bericus, (who he was is not known) being driven out of the iſland for attempting to raiſe a ſedition, fled, with thoſe of his party, to Rome, and being highly provoked againſt his countrymen, perſuaded the emperor to invade Britain. On the other hand, the Britons, reſenting the emperor's receiving the fugitives, and his refuſing to deliver them up, denied the tribute he then demanded of them, and prohibited all commerce with the Romans. As Claudius wanted only a pretence for the war, he was not ſorry they afforded him one ſo plauſible; he was then in his *third conſulate*, and was ambitious of atchieving ſomething that might entitle him to a triumph; therefore he made choice of Britain for his province, and gave orders to Plautius, then Prætor in Gaul, to tranſport thoſe legions he had with him into Britain, and begin the expedition, whilſt he was preparing to follow him, if there ſhould be occaſion.[c] But the Roman ſoldiers, perhaps, remembering the rough reception the Britons had formerly given to Julius Cæſar, and being, as they ſaid, unwilling to make war *beyond the end of the world*, at firſt refuſed to follow him or obey his commands. However, they were at laſt prevailed on to embark; and putting to ſea in three different parties, leſt their landing ſhould be hindered, they made towards Britain, and landed without oppoſition; for the Britons having been informed of a mutiny in the Roman army, did not expect ſo ſudden an alteration, and had, therefore, made

[c] Suet. in Claud. Dion, lib. lx.

no preparations to oppoſe them. It is generally ſuppoſed that the emperor ſent Plautius into Britain in his third conſulate, which fixes it in the year 43; as ſoon as he had landed he ſeems to have been very deſirous of coming to a battle as ſoon as poſſible; but the Britons did all they could to avoid it, and kept themſelves in ſmall parties behind their moraſſes and among their hills, in hopes of tiring out the enemy with ſkirmiſhes and delays till winter, when they imagined Plautius would go and winter in Gaul, as Julius Cæſar had before. This reſolution much diſconcerted the Roman general, who, notwithſtanding theſe difficulties, found means firſt to attack Caractacus, and afterwards Togodumnus, and defeated them both. He then reduced part of the Dobuni, whence he marched on in queſt of the Britons, whom he found careleſsly encamped on the farther bank of a river, (thought by ſome to have been the Severn,[a]) imagining the Romans could not paſs it without a bridge; but Plautius ſending over the Germans, who were uſed to paſs the moſt rapid ſtreams, in their armour, they fell upon the aſtoniſhed Britons, who were forced, after a moſt obſtinate reſiſtance, to betake themſelves to flight. From hence the Britons betook themſelves to the Thames, towards the mouth of it, and being acquainted with the nature of the places which were firm and fordable, paſſed eaſily; whereas the enemy, in purſuing them, ran great hazards. But the Germans, having ſwam over the river, and others getting over by a bridge higher up, the Britons were ſurrounded on all ſides, and great numbers of them ſlain. And the Romans, purſuing too eagerly, fell among the bogs and moraſſes, and loſt great numbers of their own men. Upon this indifferent ſucceſs, and becauſe the Britons were ſo far from being daunted at the death of Togodumnus, (who had been ſlain in one of theſe

[a] Horſley, p. 30.

battles)

battles) that they made preparations with greater fury to revenge it, Plautius fearing the worſt, drew back his forces, and taking care to ſecure the conqueſts he had already made, ſent to Rome to the emperor Claudius to come to his aſſiſtance, as he was ordered to do, if his affairs ſhould be in a dangerous ſituation. It is plain, from Dion Caſſius's account of this expedition, that Plautius waited for the emperor on the ſouth, or Kentiſh ſide of the Thames. From his fear of the preparations and fury of the Britons, it is moſt likely he choſe himſelf an advantageous ſituation for this purpoſe, capable of containing his forces, and which he, no doubt ſtrongly entrenched and fortified. It has been thought by many, that the place of his encampment was where thoſe large remains of a *Roman camp* and entrenchment are ſtill to be ſeen on Keſtondown, near Bromley. Indeed, its nearneſs to the Thames, as well as its ſize, ſtrength, and many other circumſtances, induce one to think it could hardly be made for any other purpoſe.

The emperor Claudius no ſooner received this news than he ſet out from Rome with a mighty equipage; and, to ſtrike the more terror, he brought with him ſeveral elephants; having purſued his journey, partly by land and partly by ſea, till he came to the ocean, he ſailed over, and landed in Britain, and immediately marched to join Plautius, who ſtill waited for him near the Thames. Having taken upon himſelf the chief command, the whole army paſſed that river, and in a ſet battle gave the Britons a ſignal overthrow. After this he took Camulodunum; ſuppoſed by ſome to have been Maldon; by others Colcheſter; and by Dr. Gale, Walden, the royal ſeat of Cunobeline, and a great number of priſoners in it; many by force, and others by ſurrender.[b] From the mention Suetonius makes of Claudius's expedition hither, it is inſinuated,

[b] See Horſley, p. 37.

his conqueſt in Britain coſt no blood. Bede, we may ſuppoſe, was of the ſame opinion, as in his account of it he even copies Suetonius's words: but Dion Caſſius, from whom we have the moſt particular deſcription of this war, gives the above very different account of it.[a] Whichever the fact was, part of Britain being thus ſubdued, Claudius diſarmed the inhabitants, and appointed Plautius to govern them, and ordered him to ſubdue thoſe who remained as yet unconquered. To ſuch as had ſubmitted, he generouſly forgave the confiſcation of their eſtates, which obliged them to ſuch a degree, that they erected a temple to him, and paid him divine honors. The emperor, having ſtaid in Britain about ſixteen days, ſet out from hence on his return to Rome, having ſent before him the news of his victories. And though he had conquered but a very ſmall part of this iſland, yet, on his arrival at Rome, he was rewarded with a triumph, and many other honors, the ſame as had been decreed to other conquerors, after they had reduced whole kingdoms.[b] After this, the ſeveral governors of Britain, ſent over by the Romans, had various ſucceſs againſt the Britons; one while the Romans through fear of them taking care not to provoke them by any act of hoſtility, giving to their cowardly inaction the ſpecious name of peace, and at another time maintaining their conqueſts, and reducing ſeveral warlike ſtates to their empire. In this ſituation Britain remained till the celebrated Cneius Julius Agricola was ſent to command in it, in the reign of the emperor Veſpaſian, in the year 78;[c] who not only, by his bravery, extended the Roman empire through Wales and the fartheſt part of Scotland; but by his prudent management, reconciled the inhabitants to the Roman government; by which means the Britons began to live more contented, and

[a] Dion, lib. lx. Suet. in Claud. cap. 11.
[b] See Phil. Tranſ. No. 356. [c] Tacit. in vit. Agric.

in a ſtate of peace under the Romans; a ſtate which, through the neglect and connivance of former governors, had been, till then, no leſs dreadful than that of war. For the purpoſe, he employed his winters here in meaſures extremely advantageous to the empire; ſo that the people, wild and diſperſed over the country, might, by a taſte of pleaſures, be reconciled to inactivity and repoſe, he encouraged them privately, and publicly aſſiſted them to build temples, houſes, and places of public reſort. He took care to have the ſons of their chiefs educated in the liberal ſciences, preferring their genius to that of their neighbours, the Gauls; and ſuch was his ſucceſs, that thoſe who had lately ſcorned to learn the Roman language, ſeemed now fond of its elegancies. From that time many of the Britons began to aſſume the Roman apparel, and the uſe of the gown grew frequent among them. Thus, by degrees, they proceeded to the charms and allurements of vice and effeminacy, in their galleries, baths, entertainments, and other kinds of luxury; all which were, as Tacitus judiciouſly obſerves, by the inexperienced, ſtiled politeneſs, though in reality they were only baits of ſlavery.

Agricola having ſpent eight years in Britain, ordered the admiral of his fleet to ſail round it; which he happily accompliſhed, and returned, with great reputation, to the port whence he had departed, and thence proved Britain to be, as it was long thought before, an iſland.[d] Though Britain was thus, after ſo many ſtruggles and conteſts, entirely reduced, yet the Romans did not long continue maſters of it, at leaſt, in Caledonia; for what Agricola won, was, on his being recalled ſoon after, loſt by Domitian, in whoſe reign the farther, or northern, parts of Britain were left to the natives of them, the Romans contenting themſelves with the hither, or ſouthern, part which was

[d] Tacitus, Ib.

reduced to a complete province, not governed by conſular or proconſular deputies, but accounted *præſidal*, and appropriated to the emperors, as being annexed to the empire, after the diviſion of provinces by Auguſtus, and having proprætors of its own.

The Romans had continued conflicts after this with the northern inhabitants of Britain, the Scots and the Picts. The firſt mention made of the former infeſting this iſland, is in the year 360.[a] They landed firſt from Ireland, as the Picts had done before from Scandinavia. Theſe conflicts were attended with various ſucceſs. At length, in order to reſtrain theſe people, and to prevent their making incurſions into their provinces, they cauſed ſeveral walls at different times to be built acroſs from ſea to ſea, which ſeparated at the ſame time that it defended the provincial part of Britain, in the poſſeſſion of the Romans, from the northern part, in the hands of the barbarians. During the whole of this period, the county of Kent, notwithſtanding the bloody wars and inſurrections which continually overſpread the reſt of Britain, ſeems to have continued in peace, and in a quiet ſubjection to the Roman government; for though at firſt the inhabitants of it contended with much bravery in defence of their liberty againſt the Romans, and did not ſubmit to the yoke without much bloodſhed, yet, in the end, they became pleaſed with their ſituation, and, as it were, one nation, with their conquerors, and were, at laſt, no leſs unwilling to part with them than they had been at firſt to receive them. At length, ſoon after the year 395, the famous Stilico, who governed the weſtern empire during the minority of the emperor Honorius, ſent over a legion into Britain,[b] by which means the Saxons, who are ſaid to have firſt infeſted Britain in the time of the emperor Valentinian

[a] Alford's Annals.

[b] Spartian in Hadrian, p. 6; Jul. Cap. in Anton. c. 5; Spartian in Sever. Bede, cap. 5; Burt. on Anton. p. 99; Uſher Brit. Antiq. p. 595; Claud. de Bell. Get. ver. 415.

anno 364,[c] being overcome, the ſea was become quiet; and the Picts having loſt their ſtrength, Britain was delivered from her fears. About this time a proper officer was appointed, to guard the coaſts againſt the attempts of the Saxons, with the title of *Comes Littoris Saxonica.* Not long after, the Roman empire being overrun by ſeveral barbarous nations, moſt of the Roman troops quartered in Britain were recalled, and the iſland was again left open to its former enemies; whereupon the natives, expecting no aſſiſtance from Honorius, ſet up an emperor of their own, two of whom, Mark and Gratian, being after a very ſhort reign ſucceſſively murdered,[d] were ſucceeded by Conſtantine, a common ſoldier, who was inſpired with ſuch an opinion of his own merit and fortune, that he formed a deſign of making himſelf maſter of the whole empire. With this view he paſſed over into Gaul, taking with him the few Roman forces that had been left here, and ſuch of the Britons as were able to bear arms. The unhappy Britons, thus left to themſelves, were more harraſſed than ever by the Scots, Picts, and other northern nations, who, putting all to fire and ſword, ſoon reduced them to a miſerable condition. In this ſituation, after having often implored in vain the emperor's aſſiſtance, they withdrew their obedience to Rome, and no longer obeyed the laws of the empire. The emperor Honorius ſeemed to approve their conduct; for, by his letters, he permitted, and even adviſed them to provide for their own ſafety, which was an implicit reſignation of the ſovereignty of Britain. This happened, according to Bede, a little after the taking of Rome by Alaric, king of the Goths, in the year of Chriſt 410.[e]

[c] Alford's Annals.

[d] Claud. de Laud. Stil. lib. ii. Ib. in Eutropium, lib. ii. Ib. Epithal. &c. Zoſ. lib. ix. cap. 11. See Bede Eccleſ. Hiſt. lib. i. cap 11.

[e] Zoſ. lib. vi. Aſſerii Annales, p. 142; Uſher, p. 216; Alford ad an. 410, an urb. Cond. 1161; Bede, lib. i. cap. 11.

The Britons, now again a free people, ſeemed at firſt to have fought with ſome ſucceſs againſt their irreconcileable enemies; but being in the end overpowered, they had recourſe again to the emperor, imploring his protection, and promiſing an entire obedience to Rome, provided they were delivered from the tyranny and oppreſſion of their mercileſs enemies. Honorious, touched with compaſſion, ſent a legion to their relief, which landing unexpectedly in Britain, cut in pieces great numbers of the Scots and Picts, and obliged them to retire beyond the friths of Edinburgh and Dumbarton; and then, after adviſing the Britons to build a wall on the iſthmus, from ſea to ſea, they returned to the continent, where their aſſiſtance was wanted, to repulſe the barbarians, breaking from all quarters into the empire. But though this advice was immediately followed by the Britons, yet it was of no ſervice to them; for the wall being built only with turf, their enemies ſoon broke it down in ſeveral places, and pouring in upon their territories, like a torrent, committed more dreadful ravages than ever, deſtroying every thing with fire and ſword.[a] After ſo many miſeries and calamities, the unhappy Britons ſent deputies once more to the emperor, who appearing before him with their garments rent, and duſt on their heads, prevailed on him to ſend new forces to their relief. Theſe haſtening into Britain, fell upon the enemy, not in the leaſt appriſed of their arrival, and made a dreadful havoc among them, whilſt they were roving up and down in queſt of booty. The Scots and Picts being thus driven beyond the friths, the Romans, who had no ambitious views in aſſiſting the diſtreſſed Britons, but were come over merely out of compaſſion, told them plainly, they were to expect no farther aſſiſtance from the emperor; that the troops he had now ſent were ordered back to the continent,

[a] Gild. Excid. Brit. cap. 12, 13; Bede, Ib. cap. 12.

and

and that they were therefore obliged to take their laſt farewel of Britain, and entirely abandon the iſland. After this declaration, Gallio of Ravenna, commander of the Roman troops, exhorted the Britons to defend themſelves for the future by fighting manfully for their country, their wives, their children, and, what ought to be dearer than life itſelf, their liberty, againſt an enemy no ſtronger than themſelves, provided they would exert their ancient courage and reſolution. And that they might the better withſtand the attacks of the enemy, he adviſed them to repair the wall built by Severus, not with turf, but with ſtone, offering them the aſſiſtance of his ſoldiers, and his own direction in the work. Upon this the Britons, jointly with the Romans, carried on their work with ſuch diligence, that though the wall was eight feet in breadth, and twelve in heighth, it was ſoon finiſhed. They likewiſe built towers at convenient diſtances on the eaſt coaſt, againſt the Saxons and others; who, coming from Germany, made frequent deſcents on that ſide.

The Roman commander then leaving them patterns of the weapons he had taught them to make, after many encouraging exhortations, took his laſt farewel of Britain, telling the inhabitants not to expect their return again; and from this departure may be dated the total deſertion of Britain by them, and the final period of the Roman empire in this iſland.[b] But there is a great difference among writers about the year in which the Romans may be ſaid to have abandoned Britain; ſome dating it from Gallio's departure, others from their application to Ætius, the conſul, for his aſſiſtance, and accordingly they place this event in the years 426, 435, and 437. Uſher ſays, Gallio arrived in Britain, with his forces, in 425, and that he left it in 427, which ſeems the moſt probable account of any.

[b] Bede, Ibid.

That

That part of Britain which lies ſouth of the two Friths (for the northern parts ſtill maintained their independency) having been reduced into a complete province by Agricola, in the reign of the emperor Domitian, had been put under the government of an officer, who bore the title of *Proprætor*, being the emperor's lieutenant, and the inhabitants, who were become ſubjects of the empire, endured all the hardſhips that uſually fall to the lot of the vanquiſhed; exhorbitant taxes were laid on them on various pretences; their eſtates were frequently taken from them, and given to the veterans that were continually coming to ſettle in the iſland, and their youth were made ſoldiers and diſperſed into the other provices of the empire. Under this form of government the province of Britain continued to the time of the emperor Conſtantine, who, when he new modelled the empire, and made a general regulation for the better government of his dominions, divided them into four large *Præfectures*, viz. Italy, Gaul, the Eaſt, and Illyria, in which were contained fourteen great provinces. Britain, one of theſe, was made ſubject to the *Præfectus Prætorio*, or Præfect of Gaul,[a] and was governed by a vicar, or deputy, who was ſtiled *Spectabilis*. Before this time, Britain was divided into two provinces only, but Conſtantine divided it into three; the firſt was called *Britannia Prima*, containing thoſe parts ſouth of the Thames; the ſecond *Britannia Secunda*, containing all the country weſt of the Severn, to the Iriſh ſea, now called Wales; the third province was diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Maxima Cæſarienſis*, and contained all the reſt of the country lying northward of the Thames, and eaſtward of the Severn.—Pancirollus, who wrote his Notitia ſomewhat later than the time of the Emperors Arcadius and Honorius, viz. before the middle of the fifth century, in his deſcription of the government of Britain, tells us, that

[a] Zoſimus Eccleſ. Hiſt. lib. ii.

the

the lieutenant, or vicegerent, of the Præfect of Gaul, had then under him certain conſular deputies, and præſides, or preſidents, who, with ſeveral inferior officers, managed all civil and criminal matters. Beſides which, there were ſubordinate to him at that time in Britain three different courts, or departments, under the direction of three principal officers, namely, the *Commes Britanniarum*, or Count of Britain; the *Dux Britanniarum*, or Duke of Britain; and the *Comes Littoris Saxonici*, or Count of the Saxon Shore.

The firſt of theſe ſeems to have been merely a civil officer, whoſe juriſdiction was over the inland parts of the iſland, and the weſtern coaſts; the ſecond ſeems to have been military, whoſe ſtation was in the North, where he had a large body of troops garriſoned under his command, to defend thoſe parts from the inroads of the Scots and Picts, and the third had the guard of the eaſtern and ſouthern coaſts, from the depredations of the Saxon pirates; for which purpoſe he had likewiſe a ſufficient number of troops under his command, ſtationed in this part of Britain. The government of the honourable the Count of the Saxon Shore in Britain, extended over the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Eſſex, Suſſex, Hampſhire, and Kent, on the coaſts of which, or at leaſt near them, the forces under his command were ſtationed. Thoſe in the county of Kent were:

The commander of the Tungrian ſoldiers ſtationed at Dover.

The commander of the detachment of ſoldiers of Tournay, at Limne.

The commander of the firſt cohort of Vetaſcians, at Reculver.

The commander of the ſecond legion, called Auguſta, at Richborough.

The

The commander of the detachment of the Abulci, at Anderida.[a]

The military force kept by the Romans in Britain was very conſiderable; from the time of Claudius to that of the emperor Veſpaſian, there were four legions conſtantly in this iſland, and afterwards three, till the Romans were forced to recal them, by degrees, to make head againſt their inteſtine enemies, and the Goths, and other barbarous nations, who extended their ravages to all parts of the empire.

There remains little more to be ſaid of the Romans whilſt in Britain, that concerns their tranſactions in this county, further than to take notice, that in order to facilitate their marches, and prepare an eaſy quick communication throughout the iſland, they made ſeveral highways from one end of it to the other; particularly in this county they made three public or conſular ways, beſides others of an inferior ſort, and fixed their uſual ſtations and manſions upon them. That in proceſs of time, they built ſeveral watch-towers, forts, and caſtles, on the coaſt, as well to awe the Britons, and preſerve a ſafe intercourſe with the continent, as to guard againſt the inſults of the Saxon pirates, all which will, in other parts of this work, be more particularly mentioned.

THE ROMANS having thus abandoned Britain, with an intention to return no more, the Scots and Picts no ſooner heard of it, than landing in ſwarms from their leather veſſels, they committed greater ravages than ever, deſtroying all with fire and ſword. Next they reſolved to attack the wall, which had been lately repaired, and ſoon made themſelves maſters of it, the

[a] Notitia Pancirolli. See Seldon's Tit. of Hon. p. 327.

Britons

Britons betaking themſelves to flight, and their enemies purſuing them, made a dreadful havoc of the fugitives, taking poſſeſſion of their towns, which they found deſerted by the inhabitants. As they met with no oppoſition, they overrun the whole country, making a general havoc and devaſtation, which bred a dreadful famine.[b]

This was productive of new miſchiefs, and a kind of civil war among the Britons themſelves, who were obliged, for their ſupport, to plunder and take from each other the little the common enemy had left them. At laſt, the famine became ſo general, that the Britons which remained were obliged to betake themſelves to the woods, and ſubſiſt by hunting, and in this deplorable condition they continued ſome years. The Britons had at this time kings of their own; but they raiſed ſuch only to the throne as were remarkable for their rapine and cruelty, and theſe were frequently murdered, and worſe men choſen in their room.—Thus at variance among themſelves, and at the ſame time preſſed with famine, and purſued by a mercileſs enemy, they had recourſe once more to the Romans for aſſiſtance, writing to Ætius, who was then conſul the third time, and governed the weſtern empire, almoſt with abſolute ſway, in order to move him with compaſſion. But Ætius, who was then in Gaul, either could or would not afford them the leaſt aſſiſtance; the emperor, Valentinian the Third, then being under great apprehenſion of a war with Attila, which threatened the whole weſtern empire. The Britons, now deſpairing of any relief from the Romans, and reduced by their misfortunes to the utmoſt extremity, knew not what meaſures to take to free themſelves from their unfortunate circumſtances. Great numbers of them fled to Armorica, where thoſe Britons who attended Maximus into Gaul are ſuppoſed to

[b] Gildas, ſect. 13 and 16. Flor. Worceſt. p. 541.

have

have ſettled; others ſubmitted to the Scots and Picts, purchaſing a miſerable ſubſiſtance with everlaſting ſlavery; and ſome few, ſallying out in parties from the woods and caves, fell upon the enemy while they were roving up and down the country, and cut many of them in pieces. The Picts, from the famine and miſery of the country, had no inducement to continue longer in it, and therefore withdrew themſelves to thoſe parts about the wall, which were either abandoned by the Britons, or inhabited by ſuch as had ſubmitted to their new maſters; and the Scots returned home. The Britons, having now ſome reſpite, began to cultivate their lands again, which produced an amazing plenty; but the luxury and eaſe attendant on it, plunged them into the utmoſt exceſſes of vice and debauchery; in the midſt of which, theſe nations, returning with incredible fury, put all to the fire and ſword, and ſoon again reduced this unhappy people to the utmoſt extremity.[a]

In their diſtreſſes, as the only poſſible remedy of their calamities, the Britons had, at a general aſſembly, elected Vortigern as their chief or ſuperior monarch over the whole nation, as one who ſhould manage the war for them, and direct the whole of their affairs againſt the common enemy. But the diſcord that now reigned between many of the ſtates prevented any good effect that might happen from this choice; ſeveral of their great men, having fortified themſelves in different parts, acted as kings; and all theſe petty tyrants, jealous of one another, far from acquieſcing in the above election, ſought only to deſtroy this monarch, in hopes of being choſen in his room. In this ſtate of confuſion it was impoſſible for any of them to ſubſiſt long. Vortigern, who had been thus choſen king, was a proud, covetous, debauched tyrant, regardleſs

[a] H. Hunt. lib. i. Gild. ſect. 14. Bede, lib. i, cap. 13 Flor. Worceſter. Spelman, part ii, p. 148. Uſher, p. 1104.

of

of the public welfare, though he was choſen merely for the purpoſe of promoting it. However, being at this time rouſed by the clamours of the people on all ſides, and alarmed for his own preſervation, he ſummoned a meeting of the chief men of the nation, to conſult on the proper means of delivering the country from the calamities it then groaned under. In this aſſembly, the Britons, almoſt diſtracted and without hope at their diſtreſſed condition, reſolved upon an expedient the moſt pernicious that could be imagined, and what in the end, proved the utter deſtruction of the nation. This was to invite the Saxons to come over to their ſuccour, a people at that time famous for their piracies and cruelties, and dreaded, even by the Britons themſelves, as death itſelf.[b]

The Saxons were, according to the moſt probable opinion, a colony of the Cimbrians, that is, of the inhabitants of the Cimbrian Cherſoneſus, now Jutland, who, finding their country overſtocked with inhabitants, ſent out, much about the ſame time, three numerous companies to ſeek new ſettlements. To one of theſe companies was afterwards given the name of Suevians, to another that of Franks, and to the third the name of Saxons. The Suevians took their rout towards Italy, the Franks advanced to Belgic Gaul, and the Saxons poſſeſſed themſelves of the whole country between the Rhine and the Elbe, and afterwards, by degrees, extended the conqueſts along the coaſts of the German ocean, and when the Britons ſent to implore their aſſiſtance, they were maſters not only of the preſent Weſtphalia, Saxony, Eaſt and Weſt Frieſland, but likewiſe of Holland and Zealand. The firſt place theſe people ſettled in, on their leaving the Cherſoneſus, was the preſent duchy of Holſtein, which is thence called the antient ſeat of the Saxons. Be-

[b] W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 1. H. Hunt. lib. i. Gildas ſect. 17. Bede, lib. i. cap. 14, et ſeq. M. Weſtm. p. 81.

tween

tween this country and the Cherſoneſus, or Jutland, dwelt a people known even in Tacitus's time, by the name of Angles. According to this account which is copied from Bede, the Angles inhabited that ſmall province in the kingdom of Denmark and duchy of Sleſwick, which is called at this day Angel, and of which the city of Flenſburgh is the metropolis.—Hengiſt and Horſa came from this country of the Angles into Britain, which from thence was called Anglia.[a]

At the time the Saxons came out of the Cherſoneſus, in queſt of new ſettlements, they were joined by the Angles, who, in proceſs of time, became one nation with them. Hence they are, by moſt authors, compriſed under the general name of Saxons, though they are diſtinguiſhed by ſome by the compound name of *Anglo-Saxons*. Some time after the Saxons, Franks, and Suevians had left the Cherſoneſus, the Goths, having driven out the Cimbrians that were remaining, made themſelves maſters of that peninſula, which was thenceforth called Gothland, or Jutland, from its inhabitants the Goths, or Jutes. Great numbers of theſe Giotæ, or Jutæ, mixing with the Saxons and Angles, came over with them from time to time, to ſhare in their conqueſts, and ſettling with them, were eſteemed afterwards as one and the ſame people; but being ſo few in number, they loſt the name of Jutes, and together with the Angles, were compounded under the general name of Saxons; but they were not known to the Romans till the latter end of the fourth century; Eutrophius, Ammianus Marcellinus, and the poet Claudian being the firſt Roman writers who make mention of them. They were looked upon to be the moſt valiant of all the Germans, both for greatneſs of mind, ſtrength of body, and a hardy conſtitution, The Romans dreaded them above all others, becauſe

[a] Tacitus de Mor. Germ. cap. 40. Bede, lib. i. cap. 15.

their

their motions were always ſudden, and their courage and activity terrible to them. They were remarkable for their chaſtity, and in their perſons for their tallneſs, ſymmetry of parts, and exactneſs of features. They wore their hair hanging down their ſhoulders; their cloaths were ſhort cloſe coats; and their armour long ſpears. When they ſtood, they leaned upon little ſhields, and wore a ſort of knives hanging before. But earlier they uſed to ſhave their heads to the very ſkin, except a little above the crown, and wore a plate round their heads.[b]

This Sidonius Appollinaris plainly intimates in theſe verſes, lib. viii. epiſt. 9.

"Iſtic Saxona cærulum videmus
"Adſuetum antè ſalo ſolum timere,
"Cujus verticis extimas per oras
"Non contenta ſuos tenere morſus
"Altat lamina marginem comarum.
"Et ſic crinibus ad cutem reſciſſis,
"Decreſcit caput, additurque vultus."

Here 'twas we ſaw the purple Saxon ſtand,
Us'd to rough ſeas, yet ſhaking on the land.
The frozen plate, that on their crown they wear
In one great tuft drives up their buſhy hair;
The reſt they keep cloſe ſhav'd; and thus their face
Appears ſtill bigger, as their head grows leſs.

CAMD. BRITT. p. clxii.

They were admirably ſkilled in naval affairs, and by their long and continued piracies, had inured themſelves ſo to the ſea, that it might almoſt be ſaid, they dreaded the land. They annoyed the coaſts of Britain and France, even as far as Spain, to ſuch a degree, that it was found neceſſary to guard the ſhores with officers and ſoldiers, appointed for this purpoſe, againſt

[b] Zoſimus Eccleſ. Hiſt. lib. i. Amm. Marcell. lib. xxviii. cap. 2.

any attempts they might make upon them, and theſe, for that reaſon, were called *Counts of the Saxon ſhore*. But notwithſtanding this, by the help of their nimble fly-boats, called *ciults*, in Engliſh, keels or yawls, they contrived very frequently to plunder our coaſts. When they put to ſea in theſe boats there were as many pirates as rowers; they were all at the ſame time both maſters and ſervants, all taught and learned in this their trade of robbing. In ſhort, the Saxon was the moſt terrible enemy that could be engaged. If he took you unawares, he was gone in a moment; he deſpiſed oppoſition, and certainly worſted you, if you were not well provided. If he purſued, he undoubtedly caught you; if he flew, he always eſcaped. Shipwrecks, ſo far from frightening him, hardened him. Theſe people did not only underſtand the dangers of the ſeas, but were intimately acquainted with them. If they were purſued in a tempeſt, it gave them an opportunity of eſcaping; if they were purſuing, it ſecured them from being diſcovered at a diſtance. They readily ventured their lives among waves and rocks, if there were any hopes of ſurpriſing their enemy. It was their cuſtom always, before they weighed anchor and ſet ſail homewards, to take every tenth captive and put them to death, by equal and exquiſite tortures, and this was owing to ſuperſtition; after thoſe that were to die were got together, they pretended to temper the injuſtice of putting them to death by a ſeeming equity of lots.

The Saxons were ſo ſtrangely ſuperſtitious, that whenever they had any weighty matters under debate, they were, beſides their ſoothſaying, principally directed by the neighing of horſes, which they looked on as the ſureſt preſage. To foretell events of war they uſed to take a captive of the nation againſt which their deſign was, and to oblige him to fight a ſingle combat with ſome one of their own country: each

was

was to fight with the arms of his own nation, and by the iſſue of it they concluded which ſide would conquer.[a]

Their religion was much the ſame as that of the other northern nations. Among their chief gods were the Sun, the Moon, the celebrated Woden, his ſon Thor, his wife Friga, or Fræa, Tuiſco, Theutates, Heſus, and Tharamis. Theſe three laſt are mentioned by Lucan, as is Tuiſco by Tacitus. To the Sun and Moon were conſecrated the two firſt days of the week, called from them Sunday and Monday. Tuiſco was the founder of the German nation, and to him was conſecrated Tueſday. The next idol was Woden, whom they eſteemed as their god of battle; his ſacrifices were men, and the fourth day in the week was conſecrated to him, and was from him called Wedneſday. Several places in England take the original of their name from this idol, particularly Wodenſborough, or Winſborough, in this county. Thor, the god of the air, who was thought to have ſtorms, winds, ſhowers, and fair weather at his diſpoſal, had Thurſday conſecrated to him, and was of more eſtimation among them than moſt of the reſt; they believed his power and might to be wonderful, and that there were no people throughout the whole world that were not ſubjected to him, and did not owe him divine honor and worſhip. Friga, the next, was the goddeſs of pleaſure, who had the ſixth day allotted for her worſhip, and thence called, from her, Friday. The ſeventh day, or Saturday, was ſacred to the idol Seator, otherwiſe called Crodo.[b] The Saxons had, beſides theſe, ſeveral other deities, to whom they paid great veneration, and among others

[a] Sidon. Apoll. lib. ix. epiſt. ad Numantium. See Camd. Brit. p. clxiii. et ſeq.

[b] Lucan, lib. i, ver. 444. Tacitus de Morib. Germ. M. Weſt. p. 82. Camd. p. clxiv. Verſtegan, p. 77.

the goddeſs Eoſtre, to whom they ſacrificed in April, which was thence by them ſtiled Eaſter Monath, or the Month of Eoſtre; and hence the Saxons retained the word Eaſter even after their converſion to the chriſtian religion, appropriating it to the ſolemn feſtival, which we celebrate in commemoration of our Saviour's reſurrection.[a]

The Angles, as we read in Tacitus, as well as the other neighbouring nations, worſhipped Herthus, that is the mother earth, as believing ſhe intereſted herſelf in the affairs of men and nations.[b] For a more particular account of the worſhip the Saxons paid to their gods, and the ſacrifices they offered to them, the reader is referred to Wormius, Verſtegan, Iſaacius Pontanus, and other German and Daniſh writers. As to their government, the country ſubject to them was, according to Verſtegan, divided into twelve provinces, each of which was governed by a chief, or head, accountable to the general aſſembly of the nation. By this aſſembly a general was choſen in time of war, who commanded with almoſt a ſovereign power; but his authority ceaſed as ſoon as the war ended.

It is time now to reſume the thread of our hiſtory, and return to the landing of the Saxons on this iſland.

The expedient of inviting the Saxons hither being approved of in the general aſſembly of the Britons, meſſengers were immediately diſpatched into Germany, to offer them advantageous terms, provided they would come over to their aſſiſtance. The Saxons were highly pleaſed with their propoſal, the more as they were foretold by their ſoothſayers, that they ſhould plunder the country to which they were called, for the ſpace of an hundred and fifty years,

[a] Bede de rat. temp. cap. 13.
[b] Camd. p. clxiv. Ant. Univ. Hiſt. vol. xix, p. 177.

and

and quietly poſſeſs it twice that time. Having therefore fitted out three long ſhips, called, in their language, chiules, they put to ſea under the conduct of Hengiſt and Horſa, the ſons of Wetgiffel, great-grandſon of the celebrated Woden, from whom all the royal families of the Saxons derive their pedigrees.[c] Theſe arriving at Ippedsfleet, now called Ebbsfleet, in the Iſle of Thanet, a little to the north of Richborough caſtle, about the year 449,[d] were received there, both by the prince and people, with the greateſt demonſtrations of joy. A league was immediately concluded with them, by which they were to defend the Britons againſt all foreign enemies, and were to have in return the Iſle of Thanet allotted to them for their habitation, beſides pay and maintenance, which event ſome place a few years ſooner, others a few years later; Bede and Flor. Worceſt. place it in 450, as does archbiſhop Uſher. Hiſtorians have not told us what was the number of theſe Saxon auxiliaries, but it could not be above 1500, ſince they all came over in three ſhips, and it cannot well be ſuppoſed, that any of theſe ſhips carried more than 500 men. The Saxons being thus put in poſſeſſion of the Iſle of Thanet, King Vortigern did not ſuffer them to continue long there without employment, but led them againſt the Scots and Picts, who were advanced as far as Stamford in Lincolnſhire, where a battle was fought, in which the latter were utterly routed, and forced to ſave themſelves by a precipitate flight, leaving the Saxons in poſſeſſion of the ſpoil and booty they had taken.[e] After which they ſo conſtantly defeated the

[c] Bede, lib. i. cap. 15. Gild. ſect. xxiij. Chron. Sax. Ethelwerd, p. 834. Flor. Worc. p. 542. W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 1. M. Weſtm. p. 81.

[d] Sax Chron. H. Huntingd. lib. ii. Lamb. per p. 101.

[e] Bede, lib. i. cap. 15. Hen. Huntingd. lib. ii. M. Weſtm. p 82.

enemy, that being diſcourged by theſe frequent overthrows, they abandoned their conqueſt by degrees, and retired into their own country, dreading nothing ſo much as meeting with the Saxons.[a] The more Hengiſt ſaw of the fruitfulneſs and wealth of the iſland, the more he was captivated with it; and obſerving the inhabitants to be enervated with luxury, and addicted to eaſe and idleneſs, he began to entertain hopes of procuring a permanent ſettlement for his countrymen in Britain. Having therefore, artfully perſuaded Vortigern of the danger he was in, not only from a freſh invaſion of the Scots and Picts, but from the inſolence of the Britons themſelves, he adviſed him to ſecure himſelf from the impending ſtorm, by ſending for more Saxons, and ſtrengthening himſelf with their numbers againſt all his enemies. This he readily conſented to, and Hengiſt at the ſame time acquainted his countrymen with the fruitfulneſs of the iſland, and the effeminacy of the inhabitants, inviting them to ſhare with him in his good ſucceſs, of which he had not the leaſt reaſon to doubt.[b]

The Saxons readily complied with this invitation, and arriving in ſeventeen large ſhips, in the year 450, the year after Hengiſt landed, being as Hector Boethius ſays, 5000 in number, beſides wives and children, made up, with their countrymen already in the iſland, a conſiderable army. With this ſupply came over Oeſc, or Eſk, Hengiſt's ſon, and, if Nennius is to be credited, Rowena, his daughter, with whoſe charms king Vortigern was ſo captivated, that, divorcing his lawful wife, he married her, after having, with much difficulty, obtained the conſent of her father, who pretended to be much averſe to the

[a] Chron. Sax. W. Malmſb. lib. i. c. 1.

[b] Bede, lib. i. cap. 15. W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 1. H. Hunt. lib. ii. M. Weſtm. p. 82.

match,

match, by inveſting him with the government of Kent.[c] Though Hengiſt had a good body of troops in Britain under his command, he did not think it ſufficient for the execution of his determined object, the conqueſt of the whole kingdom. He therefore led the king, by degrees, to ſeek of his own accord the thing he wiſhed for moſt himſelf, namely, the ſending for a greater number of Saxon troops, by exaggerating the dangers that threatened him on all ſides, particularly from the diſcontents of his own ſubjects, who freely vented their complaints againſt them both. This new reinforcement of Saxons, being the third, came over in forty ſhips, in the year 452, under the conduct of Octa and Ebuſa, the ſon and nephew, or, as others will have it, the brother and nephew of Hengiſt. They arrived at the Orcades, and having ravaged there, and all along the northern coaſt, the countries of the Scots and Picts, made themſelves maſters of ſeveral places beyond the Friths, and in the end, obtained leave of the king to ſettle in Northumberland, under the ſpecious pretence of ſecuring the northern parts, as Hengiſt did the ſouthern; after which, encroaching ſtill on the king's favor, Hengiſt ſent by degrees for more men and ſhips, till the countries from whence they came were almoſt left without inhabitants. The numbers of the Saxons being by theſe means greatly increaſed, they began to quarrel with the Britons, demanding larger allowances of corn and other proviſions, and threatening, if their demands were not complied with, to break the league and lay waſte the whole country. The Britons were ſurpriſed at theſe menaces, and though they were fearful the Saxons were powerful enough to do what they threatened, yet they refuſed their demands, and deſired them, if they

[c] Nennius, cap. 36.

were not contented, to return home, ſince their numbers exceeded what they were able to maintain.—This anſwer, however juſt and reaſonable, at the ſame time it provoked the Saxons, gave them the opportunity of putting their long wiſhed-for deſign in execution; wherefore, having ſecretly concluded a peace with the Scots and Picts, they began to turn their arms againſt thoſe they came to defend, and over-running the iſland deſtroyed every thing with fire and ſword, wherever their fury led them. Moſt of the public as well as private buildings were leveled with the ground: cities were pillaged and burnt; prieſts ſlain at the altars, and people without diſtinction of age, ſex, or condition, ſlaughtered in multitudes throughout the land. Some of the unhappy Britons, who eſcaped the fury of the Saxons, took refuge among the rocks and mountains in Wales and in Cornwall; great numbers of them either periſhed with hunger, or were forced by the extremity of famine to abandon their aſylum, and delivering themſelves up, preſerved their lives at the expence of their liberty; ſome, croſſing the ſea, took ſhelter among foreign nations, and thoſe that remained at home ſuffered inexpreſſible calamities, in perpetual apprehenſions, and want of neceſſaries.[a]—In the mean time, the Britons, looking on the partiality which king Vortigern had continually ſhewn the Saxons as the principal cauſe of their miſeries, and provoked at his cowardice and inattention to their welfare, depoſed him; for though they left him the title of king jointly with his ſon Vortimer, yet all the command and royal power was conferred on the latter, whom they thus raiſed to the throne; who being a brave and valiant youth, undertook the de-

[a] Gild. ſect xxiii. Bede, lib. i. cap. 15. H. Hunt. lib. ii. Ant. Unv. Hiſt. vol. xix. p. 180.

fence

fence of his diſtreſſed country; this happened in the year 454.[b]

It was about five years after the firſt landing of the Saxons, that the Britons, under the command of Vortimer, began to make head againſt them. Several bloody battles and ſkirmiſhes were fought between them, as both the Saxon and Britiſh writers agree, though they differ greatly, as well as to the time of theſe engagements, as the ſucceſs of them, as they ſtood affected to either ſide. Vortimer having aſſembled his forces, led them againſt the Saxons, and had his firſt encounter with them on the banks of the Darent, in this county; in which it ſeems probable the Saxons were worſted, as they retreated from their enemy, who followed them to Aylesford, where a bloody battle was fought between them, in the year 455, the ſucceſs of which remained equal a long time, though at laſt the victory fell to the Britons. In this ſharp engagement Horſa, brother to Hengiſt, and Catigern brother to Vortimer, fought hand to hand, and were both killed on the ſpot.[c] The former was buried on the eaſtern ſide of the Medway, at a place which from him ſtill retains the name of Horſted; and Catigern ſtill nearer to the field of battle, (from which it ſeems likely, that the Britons remained maſters of it,) in the pariſh of Aylesford, where it is ſuppoſed that rude monument, ſomewhat in the manner of Stonehenge, was erected over him, which remains to this day, and is called *Kitſcoty-houſe*, which is, as ſome interpret it, Catigerns-houſe. For ſome ſpace round about the hill, near which this battle was fought, there are large ſtones diſperſed over the lands, ſome ſtanding upright, and others thrown down by time, which, no doubt, were placed

[b] Matt. Weſtm. p. 83.

[c] Hen. Huntingd. lib. ii. Matt. Weſtm. ad an. 455. Nennius, cap. 46. W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 1.

there

there in memory of ſome who fell in this noted encounter. Some have imagined theſe ſtones were brought from the quarry on the other ſide of the river Medway, at ſix miles diſtance; but there was ſurely no occaſion for this ſuperfluous trouble, when there were quarries both at Sandling and Allington, within two miles of the ſpot. Others have imagined them to be the product of neither, but to be rather of the pebble kind, with which this part of the country abounds; one of this ſort appears to lye in its natural bed of earth, at the top of Boxley-hill, cloſe to the Maidſtone road at this time.

Vortimer ſtill followed the retreating Saxons, and coming up with them again on the ſea-ſhore, near Folkeſtone, fought a third battle with them, between that place and Hythe; and, gaining a complete victory, drove them into the iſle of Thanet. There is much difference among writers as to the place where this battle was fought; ſome aſſerting it to have been at Wippedesfleete, now Ebbsfleet, in Thanet; but as the Britons drove the Saxons, after this battle, into that iſland, the field of battle could not be in it. Nennius and others ſay, it was fought in a field on the ſhore of the Gallic ſea, where ſtood the *Lapis Tituli*, which Camden and Uſher take to be Stonar, in the iſle of Thanet; but Somner and Stillingfleet, inſtead of *Lapis Tituli*, read *Lapis Populi*, that is, Folkeſtone, where this battle was fought. What adds ſtrength to this laſt conjecture, are the two vaſt heaps of ſkulls and bones piled up in two vaults under the churches of Folkeſtone and Hythe; which, from the number of them, could not but be from ſome battle. They appear, by their whiteneſs, to have been all bleached, by lying ſome time on the ſea ſhore. Probably, thoſe at Hythe, were of the Britons, and thoſe at Folkeſtone of the Saxons. It happened in the year

year 456; and the year following Vortimer died.[a] By theſe continued ſcenes of ſlaughter, both ſides were ſo much weakened, that for ſome time after neither invaded each others territories.

The Saxons having thus withdrawn themſelves to the country that had been granted them by Vortigern, that is, to Kent and Northumberland, remained quiet there till after the deceaſe of Vortimer; who died, as our hiſtorians tell us, after a ſhort reign of leſs than five years; and they add, that upon his death-bed, he deſired to be buried near the place where the Saxons uſed to land, being perſuaded, that his bones would deter them from making any attempts there for the future; but they buried him elſewhere: Matthew of Weſtminſter ſays, at London; Nennius and others ſay, at Lincoln. Hengiſt was no ſooner informed of his death, than he returned with a numerous body of Saxons; and landing, in ſpite of all oppoſition, fought ſeveral battles with the Britons, under the command of Vortigern; who, upon the death of his ſon, Vortimer, had been reſtored to the throne. In one of theſe battles, which was fought in the year 457, at Crecanford, now called Crayford, in this county, the Britons were overthrown, with the loſs of four thouſand men, which obliged them to abandon Kent, and to retire to London; from which time only Hengiſt is ſaid, by ſome, to have taken on himſelf the title of King of Kent, eight years after the firſt arrival of the Saxons in Britain.[b] The only circumſtance that could have ſaved the Britons, proved, through their unreaſonable factions and animoſities, their utter ruin. For Aurelius Ambroſius, ſecond ſon of Conſtantine, having landed with a conſiderable body of forces from Armorica,

[a] Hen. Hunt. lib. ii. Nennius, cap. 46.

[b] Ethelwerd, p. 834. Flor. Worceſt. p. 543. Hen. Huntingd. lib. ii.

through

through the favor of Aldroen, king of that country, Vortigern and his party, conſidering him as an uſurper, who was come to ſeize the crown under colour of defending it, raiſed all the forces they could, and determined to carry on the war againſt him, as a more dangerous enemy, if poſſible, than the Saxons themſelves. Both ſides having at length wrought themſelves up into the utmoſt fury, a civil war enſued, which laſted ſeven or eight years;[a] and thus the miſerable Britons, always a prey to their inteſtine diviſions, inſtead of uniting againſt the common enemy, deſtroyed one another. At length, the wiſeſt of both parties, conſidering theſe diſſentions would be the cauſe of their common ruin, put an end to them by parting the kingdom. Vortigern had the eaſtern, and Ambroſius the weſtern part of Britain, excepting thoſe parts in the poſſeſſion of and inhabited by the Saxons; which diviſions were ſeparated from each other by the Roman highway, called afterwards Watling-ſtreet.

The civil diſſentions among the Britons having been thus appeaſed, both parties united againſt their common enemy, the Saxons. This war was carried on with various ſucceſs, till both parties, wearied out with continual loſſes, without the advantage or proſpect of conqueſt on either ſide, began to ſhew inclinations for peace, which was very ſoon concluded between them, probably upon the terms that each ſhould keep the country they already poſſeſſed. Hengiſt, who had from time to time entertained hopes of poſſeſſing the whole iſland of Britain, was now forced, after a twenty years war, to give them up, and to ſit down in appearance contented with Kent, and ſome few other ſmall diſtricts. Not that he really was ſo; he ſtill continued a prey to his unbounded ambition, and reſolved in his mind to compaſs by fraud and

[a] Gildæ Epiſt. Bede, lib. i. cap. 16, 22.

treachery,

treachery, what he could not attain openly by force of arms. For which purpoſe, every thing he did ſeemed to ſhew his ſincere intention of living in perfect union with the Britons, and to keep up a good underſtanding between the two nations. The princes had frequent intercourſe with each other; and as a mark of his peaceable and contented diſpoſition, he invited Vortigern, whoſe attachment to pleaſure he was well acquainted with, to a ſplendid entertainment. Vortigern went thither, attended by three hundred of his prime nobility, and unarmed, as not ſuſpecting any treachery; but towards the end of the feaſt a quarrel being deſignedly raiſed by Hengiſt, the Saxons ſtarting up at a ſignal given, diſpatched each of them his next man with daggers, or ſhort ſwords, which they had concealed for this purpoſe.[b] Vortigern alone was ſpared, as Hengiſt had commanded, and being detained as a priſoner, was forced, as a ranſom for his liberty, to ſurrender up to the Saxons a large tract of land bordering upon Kent, which Hengiſt added to his former territories. This was afterwards divided into three provinces, and peopled with Saxons; that part which was planted eaſtward with regard to the reſt they named *Eaſt-ſexa*, or *Seaxe*, now Eſſex; that which was ſouth of the ſame, *Suth-ſeaxe*, or Suſſex; and that which was in the middle between them, *Middel-ſeaxe*, now Middleſex. From this time there will be no occaſion to follow the Saxons in their ſeveral motions through the other parts of Britain, nor to take notice of the calamities and diſtractions which prevailed in them for ſome years. It is ſufficient to mention, that henceforward the Saxons ſpread themſelves more and more over the whole face of Britain, and made haſty advances towards that firm eſtabliſhment in it, which they had been ſo many years contending for, and that whenever there are any tranſactions

[b] Nennius, cap. 47.

between

between them and the Britons, in which the kingdom of Kent is concerned, they will be taken notice of below, in the account of the reigns of the ſeveral Kentiſh monarchs.

## *KINGS OF KENT.*

### I. HENGIST. Anno 455.

ALTHOUGH Hengiſt had thus eſtabliſhed himſelf in the kingdom of Kent, yet the Britons ſtill kept poſſeſſion of a conſiderable part of the three provinces he had ſo unjuſtly extorted from Vortigern. The natives every where ſhewed the greateſt deteſtation of the Saxons, and a reſolution not to ſubmit to their government till the laſt extremity. This exceedingly perplexed Hengiſt; he plainly ſaw the Britons would never ſubmit to him, except by force, and he was fearful of uſing that, leſt the country ſhould be diſpeopled by it, and the lands lying waſte and uncultivated, his new dominions would be of little or no uſe to him. In this ſituation he reſolved to ſend into Germany, and invite ſome more of his countrymen over; and offered, as an inducement, to divide theſe provinces among them. He was convinced the Saxons already with him in Britain, were not more than ſufficient to people Kent, and to ſupply the forces he was obliged to keep up, to oppoſe the Britons from time to time, and by thus ſettling the Saxons in the country around him, which could not otherwiſe be of any uſe to him, and muſt remain in the hands of his inveterate enemies, it would be a kind of barrier againſt them, and their cauſe being mutual, the Saxons would always unite to oppoſe the

the Britons; by which means he would have no cauſe to fear any attack they might make upon him, and he ſhould further, by this means, the only one in all probability which he could take, ſecure the ſucceſſion of the kingdom of Kent to his poſterity.

Hengiſt's invitation was joyfully accepted of by Ella, a Saxon general, of the poſterity of Woden, who, with his three ſons, Cymen, Wlencing, and Ciſſa, and a large company of Saxons, embarked for Britain. They landed in Suſſex, at a place, from Ella's eldeſt ſon, afterwards called *Cymen's Shore*, not without great oppoſition from the Britons. The Saxons, though they were tall, ſtrong, and vigorous, met with a warm reception from the Britons, and after a long conteſt, at laſt gained poſſeſſion of the ſhore, and drove the Britons as far as the foreſt of Andredſweald, now the *weald* or woody part of Suſſex and Kent, to the place ſuppoſed to be now called Wittering in Suſſex. After this retreat of the Britons, the Saxons poſſeſſed themſelves of all the ſea-coaſt of Suſſex, and continued to extend their dominions more and more towards the Thames, though not without frequent battles with the natives, which obliged them to ſend continually for freſh ſupplies out of their own country; however, in the end, they maintained their ground, and being poſſeſſed of the ſouthern ſhore, were called from thence *Suth*, or South Saxons, and their country, Suſſex. Hengiſt, thus powerfully ſtrengthened by the arrival of his countrymen, gave as many of his Saxons, as deſired it, leave to return into Germany, as the Britons were ſo much haraſſed by continual wars, in which they were for the moſt part worſted, particularly at Wippedsfleet in 465, and in another battle in 473,[a] that they were in no condition to make head againſt him. They were indeed,

[a] Flor. Worceſt. p. 544. H. Hunt. lib. ii. Alford ad an. 465. Ethelwerd, lib i. Alford ad hunc an.

grieved

grieved to ſee the Saxons ſo firmly ſettled in Britain; but their weakneſs prevented the moſt diſtant hopes of diſpoſſeſſing them.[a] Hengiſt died about twelve years after the arrival of Ella, in the year 488, thirty-nine years after his firſt landing in Britain, and thirty-three years ſince his taking upon himſelf the title of King of Kent. Though Hengiſt muſt have been allowed by every one to have been a brave and gallant ſoldier, yet his character was ſullied by a continual ſcene of bloodſhed, and the moſt inhuman cruelties, to which, and to his fraud and treachery, he owed moſt of his ſucceſs; in particular, the murder of the Britiſh lords, mentioned above, will always remain an indelible ſtain on his memory.

The *wapen*, or arms of Hengiſt, according to Verſtegan, were *a leaping white horſe*, or *hengit, in a red field*; ſimilar to which are the preſent arms of this county, the only difference being the colour of the field; which, in the latter, is *blue*.

He was ſucceeded in the kingdom of Kent by his ſon Eſcus; or, as ſome write him, Oiſc, who began his reign in the year 488, from whom the inhabitants of Kent were ſometimes called Eſkins, and Oiſcingians. He had likewiſe a ſon, named Audoacer, who ſtaid behind in Germany; and a daughter, Rowena, married, as is ſaid, to Vortigern, king of Kent; all of whom were born before Hengiſt's firſt landing in Britain; at which time, indeed, Rowena was marriageable, which ſhews he muſt have died in a good old age.

## II. ESCUS.—Anno 488.

WHEN his father died, Eſcus was in the northern parts of Britain, where he had been ſent the year before to aſſiſt againſt the Britons; but as ſoon

[a] Chron. Sax. ad an. 477. M. Weſtm. ibid. Flor. Worceſt. Ib.

as he had notice of it, he haſtened into Kent, to take poſſeſſion of the kingdom. As he had not the valour or abilities of his father, he ſeems rather to have defended than enlarged his kingdom, preferring his eaſe to the fatigues of war. For the three firſt years of his reign, there was a general truce between the Saxons and Britons, at the end of which Ella, having received a ſtrong reinforcement out of Germany, went and beſieged the ancient ſtation of *Anderida*, or *Andredceaſter*, ſituated, as ſome think, within the bounds of Kent, at Newenden; and others, in the near neighbourhood of it, in Suſſex, at Pevenſey or Haſtings. However this may be, the Britons aſſembled in multitudes to raiſe the ſiege, and harraſſed the Saxons in ſuch a manner, that they were forced to break up from before the town, and by ſkirmiſhes with the Britons to drive them by battle into the woods. Notwithſtanding which, they returned again upon them, which obliged the Saxons to divide their army into two parts, with one of which they kept the Britons off, and, at the ſame time, with the other they carried on the ſiege. At length, after a vigorous defence, the city was taken by ſtorm; but the Saxons were ſo enraged at the loſſes and fatigues it had occaſioned them, that they put all the inhabitants to the ſword, burnt the city, and raſed all the walls and places of defence to the ground. Immediately after this, Ella aſſumed the title of King of Suſſex, or the South Saxons, which he durſt not do whilſt Hengiſt was alive.[a] This was *the ſecond Saxon kingdom*, and contained the preſent counties of Suſſex and Surry. Ella was alſo elected chief or general, of the Saxons in Britain, in the room of Hengiſt; for they, like the Britons, always choſe one of their princes, whom they inveſted

[a] Ethelward, an. 492. H. Hunt. lib. ii. Chron. Sax. ad an. 490. Flor. Worceſt. p. 545. Matt. Weſtm. ad an. 492.

with the ſupreme power, to conduct their affairs during a war, who was accountable only to the ſtates, and was a kind of monarch, or head, over the other kings.

In the year 495, Cerdic, a noble Saxon general, arrived in Britain with a large body of Saxons;[a] he was illuſtrious not only on account of his own conqueſts, but for his deſcent, being ſprung from Woden, the root of all the principal Saxon families; from him the kings of England, down to king Edward the Confeſſor, in the male line, were deſcended; and in the female, down to his preſent Majeſty of Great-Britain. He was alſo famous as founder of a kingdom, to which all the reſt in the end became ſubject; and, conſequently, he muſt be eſteemed as one of the firſt founders of the Engliſh monarchy. This warlike prince, having acquired great reputation in Germany, and finding no farther employment there, reſolved, after the example of hie countrymen, to ſeek his fortune in Britain. Wherefore, embarking with his men in five ſhips, he landed at a place called, from thence, Cerdic's Ora; but as his encounters with the Britons were in the further parts of Britain, it will not be within the compaſs of my deſign to follow him thither. I ſhall, therefore, return to Eſcus, king of Kent, of whom nothing remarkable is related by our hiſtorians. He died, after a reign of twenty-two years, in 512, leaving the kingdom of Kent to his ſon Octa, who became third king thereof.

## III. OCTA. Anno 512.

TWO years after king Octa's acceſſion to the throne of Kent, Ella, king of Suſſex, died, and the monarchy of the Saxons was conferred on Cerdic

[a] Ethelwerd, an. 495. Flor. Worceſt. p. 546. W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 2. H. Hunt. lib. ii. Matt. Weſtm. ad an. 494.

above-

above-mentioned, who, after many bloody battles, gaining a ſignal victory over the Britons in the year 519, took poſſeſſion of the preſent counties of Hampſhire and Somerſetſhire, where he founded the kingdom of *Weſſex*, or the Weſt Saxons, ſo called, becauſe it lay weſt of Kent and Suſſex, this being *the third kingdom of the Saxons* in Britain. From the time Hengiſt had peopled Eſſex and Middleſex with Saxons, thoſe provinces had been governed by *a præfect*, or *deputy*, under the king of Kent; but in the year 527, Erchenwin, a deſcendant of Woden, who then held that poſt under Octa, taking advantage of that king's weakneſs, engaged the people to acknowledge him as king, which was the foundation of the kingdom of the Eaſt Saxons, being *the fourth* erected by that nation in Britain.

Octa, third king of Kent, after an inactive reign of twenty-two years, died in the year 534; and was ſucceeded by his ſon Hermenric.

## IV. HERMENRIC. Anno 534.

DURING whoſe reign, that is, in 547, Ida, a famous chief, an Angle by nation, and a deſcendant of Woden, arrived in Britain with a number of his countrymen. They landed at Flamborough, in Yorkſhire, then in the poſſeſſion of the Northumbrian Saxons, who received them as friends. The Northumbrians, ſo called from their inhabiting north of the Humber, had maintained themſelves in that country ever ſince the time of Hengiſt, and had been always in ſome dependence on the kings of Kent; but being ſo far from them, the diſtance prevented their receiving any aſſiſtance, or indeed having any intercourſe with them, which made them tired of their ſubjection, and Ida found them ready to receive him, and the numerous company of Angles that he brought with him, and they acknowledged him as king of

Northumberland;[a] which was the foundation of *the fifth Saxon kingdom* in Britain, which proved a very powerful one, for it comprehended all Yorkſhire, Lancaſhire, Durham, Cumberland, Weſtmoreland, and Northumberland, with part of Scotland, as far as Edinburgh Frith. At this time, thoſe parts of the country, which remained in the hands of the Britons, were parcelled out into little independent ſtates, who weakened each other by the diſcord that reigned among their reſpective princes. The Britiſh hiſtorians give ſuch a character of theſe petty ſovereigns, that the nation in general could have but ſmall hopes of aſſiſtance from any one, or all of them together. They were remarkable for vice and tyranny, rapine and violence; theſe ſovereigns were divided among themſelves, and as they had no confidence in each other, they could never agree upon proper meaſures to free themſelves from the impending calamities, ſo that each purſuing his own ſeparate intereſt, the Saxons, their common enemy, were left at liberty to eſtabliſh themſelves upon their ruin.

As to Hermenric, king of Kent, we have nothing left relating to him worth mentioning, excepting that in the year 561, he admitted his ſon Ethelbert partner with him in the kingdom, though the latter was then but a youth. Hermenric died in 564, leaving a daughter, named Rickell, who married Sledda, ſecond king of the Eaſt Saxons; and Ethelbert, his ſon and partner in the kingdom above-mentioned, who ſucceeded to the entire poſſeſſion of it on his father's death, and became one of the moſt celebrated monarchs, not only of Kent, but of the whole heptarchy.[b]

## V. ETHELBERT. Anno 564.

THOUGH Ethelbert, when he aſcended the throne, was but young, yet he had a great and aſpi-

[a] In 547. W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. iii. [b] Flor. Worceſt. p. 552.

ring

ring genius, and beheld, with regret, the loſs of that ſuperiority which Hengiſt, as monarch, had over all the Saxons ſettled in Britain. To regain this, he reſolved to revive his pretenſions to this dignity by force of arms, and for that purpoſe declared war againſt Ceaulin, king of the Weſt Saxons, who then poſſeſſed it. This occaſioned the firſt civil war among the Saxons in Britain ſince their arrival in it. When Ethelbert took this reſolution, he did not conſider the diſproportion between his forces and thoſe of his enemy, which he ſoon was but too ſenſible of; for Ceaulin, diſdaining to wait to be attacked by ſo young a prince, and one of no reputation, marched to meet Ethelbert, and meeting him at Wibbandune, now Wimbledon, in Surry, entirely routed him, Oſlace and Cnebba, two ſons of Ethelbert's chief commanders, being ſlain; and being defeated again a ſecond time, Ethelbert was forced to ſue for peace. His vexation, at ſo unexpected a diſappointment, was increaſed by the mockery he received from the other princes, for his preſumption. Indeed, he had occaſion for this mortifying leſſon, to teach him, that courage alone is not ſufficient for ſucceſs, unleſs accompanied with prudence and ſtrength. However, he improved ſo much by it, that he afterwards became one of the wiſeſt and moſt illuſtrious princes of his nation. Not long after this, that is about the year 575, began, as is ſuppoſed (for the year is not mentioned in the Saxon Annals, or any other antient hiſtory) *the kingdom of the Eaſt Angles*, compriſing the counties we now call Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeſhire, and the iſle of Ely, being *the ſixth Saxon kingdom* in Britain; it was founded by Uffa, the eighth from Woden, from whom the ſucceeding kings were called Uffingæ. The Saxons were now become ſo numerous and powerful over the whole country, that they began afreſh to haraſs the Britons, and in a few years drove them out from every part of

the iſland, now known by the name of England. During the time of the war between the two nations, that is, in the year 585, *the ſeventh kingdom of the Saxons* in Britain was foudned by Crida,[a] of the race of Woden, who had landed with a numerous body of Angles, his countrymen, in a fleet the moſt conſiderable of any that had come from Germany. This was called the kingdom of the Middle Saxons, and afterwards the kingdom of Mercia. This, though the laſt erected, was one of the largeſt of the Engliſh Saxon kingdoms, and one of the laſt that was conquered by the Weſt Saxons. It comprehended ſeventeen counties; to wit—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Glouceſterſhire | Northamptonſhire | Staffordſhire |
| Herefordſhire | Lincolnſhire | Shropſhire |
| Worceſterſhire | Huntingdonſhire | Nottinghamſhire |
| Warwickſhire | Bedfordſhire | Derbyſhire |
| Leiceſterſhire | Buckinghamſhire | Cheſhire, and part |
| Rutlandſhire | Oxfordſhire | of Hertfordſhire. |

The Britons were now confined within very narrow bounds; for having abandoned their ancient ſeats, they took ſhelter amongſt the craggy and mountainous places in the weſt of the iſland, which the Latins called Cambria; and the Engliſh, after the German cuſtom, Wales, whither their mercileſs enemies could not eaſily purſue them. This firſt civil war among the Saxons[b] was followed by many more, cauſed by the reſtleſſneſs and ambition of their princes. As ſoon as they were out of danger from the Britons, they quarrelled among themſelves, with ſuch animoſity, that if the Britons had had an able and courageous monarch to have led them forward, they might have recovered all they had loſt.

[a] Ethelwerd, lib. i. W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. i. Hen. Hunt. lib. ii. and Matt. Weſt. ad an. 568; Alford ad an. 575, 586; Matt. Weſt. ad hunc an.

[b] Alford ad an. 568, 569; Hen. Hunt. lib. ii.

Ceualin

Ceaulin, king of the Weſt Saxons, was ſo elated with his ſucceſs againſt Ethelbert, that he looked upon the neighbouring princes as his ſubjects and vaſſals; in all likelihood they would have ſoon been really ſo, had not death ſnatched him away in the midſt of his ambitious projects.[f] After Ceaulin's death, Ethelbert was elected monarch of the Anglo-Saxons; and though in the beginning of his reign his ill ſucceſs had brought on him the ſcorn and contempt of the neighbouring princes, inſomuch that he could ſcarce defend his own territories, yet now being of riper years and more experienced, he ſoon brought under his ſubjection all the nations of the Anglo-Saxons, except the Northumbrians, who alone found means to keep themſelves independent. The reſt choſe rather to ſubmit than to contend with him.

Ethelbert, beſides his being formidable to his neighbours for his perſonal accompliſhments, had, moreover, the advantage of being allied to France. by means of his marriage with Bertha, daughter of Charibert, king of Paris; a circumſtance which procured him great reſpect from all of them. Though the haughtineſs with which Ethelbert treated the reſt of the princes, made them very uneaſy, yet they had ſtill a much greater reaſon to be alarmed, when, on the death of Crida, king of Mercia, he ſeized on that kingdom, notwithſtanding the deceaſed king had left a ſon of fit age to ſucceed him. In this he exactly imitated Ceaulin, though he had himſelf ſtirred up the other kings againſt that monarch, on account of his ambition. Ethelbert, it ſeems, pretended that he had a right, as monarch and deſcendant of Hengiſt, to ſucceed to all the vacant thrones in the heptarchy. Alarmed at this, they began to take meaſures to put a ſtop to ſo open an uſurpation. But

[f] Saxon Chron. in 593. Bede, lib. i. cap. 25. W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 1; Thorne, Col. 1759; Parker, Eccleſ. Brit. p. 61.

Ethelbert, dreading leſt they ſhould all join in a league againſt him, and treat him in the ſame manner they did Ceaulin, would not expoſe himſelf to the ſame danger. Therefore, to make them eaſy, he reſtored the kingdom of Mercia to Wibba, the ſon of Crida, reſerving, however, ſuch an authority over him, that he durſt not undertake any thing without his permiſſion. The Engliſh princes ſeemed ſatisfied with this, and laying aſide all thoughts of a war, turned their thoughts to their own domeſtic concerns. Nothing more remarkable happened during the reſt of Ethelbert's reign, except what relates to religion. It was about the year 597, that king Ethelbert embraced the Chriſtian faith, and was baptiſed by ſaint Auguſtine, the firſt archbiſhop of Canterbury, to which his queen, Bertha, had prepared the way, which example was followed by great numbers of his ſubjects; and ſo great was the reſpect and eſteem which the king entertained for Auguſtine, and the profeſſion which he had embraced, that he gave him his royal palace at Canterbury, as an habitation for himſelf and his diſciples; and retiring to Reculver, about eight miles diſtant from thence, built another palace there, out of the ruins of the old Roman buildings at that place. In the year 604, king Ethelbert and his queen kept their Chriſtmas at Canterbury, during which the king endowed the monaſtery he had erected there, at the requeſt of Auguſtine, with great revenues and immunities, and dedicated it to the apoſtles, ſaint Peter and ſaint Paul. The laws which the king made with the advice of his *Wittenagemot*, or Great Council, are ſtill extant in the Saxon language, and are printed, with thoſe of the reſt of the Saxon kings, in the edition of the *Textus Roffenſis*, in Dr. Hickes's *Theſaurus*, in *Archaionomia*, and in biſhop Wilkins's *Leges Anglo Saxonicæ*; which as they are the moſt antient of our Saxon laws, ſo they ſhew the plainneſs and ſimplicity of the times.

Ethelbert

Ethelbert had two wives: the firſt was Bertha, of France, by whom he had Eadbald, his ſucceſſor, and Ethelburga, married to Edwin, king of Northumberland. The name of his ſecond wife is unknown. He died in 616, having reigned fifty-three years, and was buried in the porch of ſaint Martin, within the church of the abovementioned abbey, juſt by his royal conſort, queen Bertha, who died ſome years before.

## VI. EADBALD. Anno 616.

HE was ſucceeded by his ſon Eadbald, who became the ſixth king of Kent. A man very unlike his father; for as ſoon as he became his own maſter, he forſook the Chriſtian religion, and became again a heathen, and is even ſaid to have married the queen, his mother-in-law.[a]

His vices rendering him ſlothful and inactive, all the Engliſh kings caſt off the yoke they had worn during the life of Ethelbert; and among the reſt, the king of Mercia freed himſelf from the ſervitude Ethelbert had kept him in; and Eadbald had neither courage nor power to maintain what the king his father had, as he thought, ſo firmly eſtabliſhed. However, at laſt he was brought to a ſenſe of his errors, and again embracing Chriſtianity, he ſpent the remainder of his days in the practice of its precepts, and dying in the year 640,[b] was buried, near his father, in the ſame abbey, in a chapel there, which he himſelf had built. By Emma, daughter of the king of France, he left two ſons, Ermenfride and Ercombert; and a daughter named Eanſwith, who became a nun, and was foundreſs, under his patronage, of the nunnery at Folkeſtone, in this county. His ſiſter, Ethelburga, called Tate, who had been married to Edwine, king of Northumberland, and baptiſed by Paulinus, with great numbers of people in thoſe

[a] Bede, lib. ii. cap. v. Chron. Sax. ad an. 616. Flor. Worceſt. p. 556; Bede, lib. cap. 5; Chron Sax. ad an. 640.

parts,

parts, upon her husband's death; and a persecution thereupon arising against the Christians, fled to Eadbald for protection, who received her and her children, and gave her a portion of land at Liminge, where she founded a church, and was afterwards buried.[a]

## VII. ERCOMBERT.

ERCOMBERT, though the younger of king Eadbald's sons, found means to ascend the throne in prejudice of his elder brother, as some say, by the appointment of his father. This prince was a zealous Christian, and ordered the heathen temples to be razed to the ground, and the idols to be broken in pieces, lest they should hereafter prove a snare to the people.[b] On his brother Ermenfride's being seized with a distemper which brought him to the grave, Ercombert promised to leave the crown, which of right belonged to him, to his children, but he was not so good as his word. Ermenfride left issue by his wife Oslava, two sons, Ethelred and Ethelbrit; and two daughters, Ermenburga and Ermengiva; the former of whom, who was also called Domneva, had issue by her husband Merwald, son of Penda, king of Mercia; one son, Merefine; and three daughters, Milburg, Mildred, and Milgith, who were all four sainted.[c]

Ercombert died in 664, and was buried in saint Augustine's monastery, being much esteemed, as well for his piety as love to his country. By Sexburga, the daughter of Anna, king of the East Saxons, he had two sons, Egbert and Lothair; and two daughters, Ermenilda, wife of Wulpher, king of Mercia: and Ermengotha, a nun.

[a] Thorne, Col. 1906; Parker, Eccles. Brit. p. 78.

[b] W. Malmsb. lib. i. cap. i. Thorne, Col. 1769; M. Westm. ad an. 640.

[c] Flor. Worcest. p. 558, 564; Thorne, Col. 1906; M. Westm. ad an. 676.

## VIII. EGBERT.

EGBERT ſucceeded his father in the kingdom of Kent, and became a great encourager of learning and the liberal arts; which then, under the endeavours of archbiſhop Theodore, began to make their appearance in England. He was a kind patron of the miniſters of the goſpel, receiving and entertaining them with much generoſity. But theſe actions were much ſullied by the murder of his two nephews, Ethelred and Ethelbrit; whom, at the inſtigation of one Thunor, a flattering ſycophant, he cauſed to be put to death, leſt they ſhould diſturb him in the poſſeſſion of the crown. To expiate this guilt, according to the cuſtom of thoſe times, he gave Domneva, their ſiſter, a ſufficient quantity of land in the iſle of Thanet to found a monaſtery on. He gave alſo to one Baſſa, in the year 669, the palace and lands of Reculver, in Kent, (where, from the time of king Ethelbert, had been the palace of the kings of Kent) to build another monaſtery there, as a farther atonement for his crime. He died, according to the beſt authorities, in the year 673, leaving two ſons, Edric and Widred, who were both ſet aſide, to make way for their uncle Lothair, who uſurped the throne on his brother Egbert's death.[d]

## IX. LOTHAIR.

LOTHAIR did not reign long unmoleſted;[e] his firſt thoughts were employed in ſecuring the ſucceſſion of the crown to his poſterity; for which purpoſe he made his ſon Richard, by his wife, daughter of

[d] Bede, lib. iv. cap. 2; W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 1; and lib. ii. cap. 13; H. Hunt. lib. iii. Thorne, Col. 1096; Chron. Sax. Flor. Worceſt. p. 563.

[e] Bede, lib. iv. cap. 12; H. Hunt. lib. ii. Chron. Abb. S. Petri de Burgo, an. 677.

Sigerus,

Sigerus, king of the Eaſt Saxons, and ſiſter to king Offa, partner with him in the government. This obliged his nephew, Edric, to withdraw from court, and apply to Adelwalch, king of Suſſex, for aſſiſtance, who kindly received him, and ſupplied him with a conſiderable force. This involved the country in a dreadful ſcene of war and bloodſhed. At length, after ſeveral engagements, with various ſucceſs, Lothair was vanquiſhed, and died of the wounds he received in battle; and was buried in ſaint Auguſtine's monaſtery, near king Ercombert.

## X. EDRIC.

AFTER this victory, Edric was crowned without oppoſition, about the year 685. His ſhort reign was a continued ſcene of warfare with his ſubjects, by whom he was ſlain, within the ſpace of two years, leaving the kingdom of Kent ſo weakened and embroiled, that it became a prey to the ſeveral uſurpers who attempted the conqueſt of it.

## XI. WIDRED AND SWABERT.

HE was ſucceeded by his brother Wired, but as he had not the general approbation of the people, he was obliged to admit one Swabert as partner in the kingdom. Soon after which Cedwalla, king of the Weſt Saxons, imagining the inteſtine diviſions of Kent would render the kingdom an eaſy conqueſt, ſent an army into it, under the command of his brother Mollo, who over-ran and waſted great part of the country, carrying off great quantities of ſpoil. This rouſed in the Kentiſhmen their wonted courage, and uniting together in a conſiderable body, they put Mollo and his troops to flight. This prince, perceiving he was cloſely purſued, took ſhelter, with twelve others, in a houſe, which they valiantly defended for ſome time; but the Kentiſh ſoldiers ſetting fire to it, they all miſerably periſhed in the flames.

Cedwalla,

Cedwalla, irritated at the fate of his brother, whom he tenderly loved, reſolved to revenge his death. For which purpoſe he entered Kent with a formidable army, and never quitted it till he had waſted the whole country with fire and ſword, which reduced it to ſuch a ſtate, that this kingdom never afterwards made any great figure in the heptarchy.

The two kings, Widred and Swabert, enjoyed no repoſe till the year 691; when, having got rid of ſome other petty princes, who pretended a right to part of their territories, they divided the government between them, and the country was again reduced to a ſtate of peace and quietneſs within itſelf. Cedwalla was not content with the revenge he had taken, on account of his brother's death; he ſtrongly recommended the purſuit of it to his ſucceſſor, Ina; who, in 694, made great preparations to invade this kingdom, and having actually marched hither, put the whole country in a conſternation. The Kentiſhmen, after having tried every means to perſuade him to relinquiſh ſo cruel a deſign, found money the only prevailing argument; on which they offered him thirty thouſand marks of gold, which he accepted, and immediately returned home. Soon after this, Swabert dying, Widred reigned alone in Kent, and continued in peace to the time of his death, which happened in the year 725.[a] This prince was a great patron of the church, and favourer of the clergy. He called the famous council of Becancelde, in 694, wherein he confirmed ſeveral immunities and privileges to them.

He was buried near the body of ſaint Auguſtine, in the ſouth part of the porch of our Lady's chapel, built by king Eadbald. He had been twice married; his firſt wife's name being Werburga, and the other

[a] Bede, lib. iv. cap. 26; Flor. Worceſt. p. 566; W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 1; Thorne, Col. 1770; Chron. Sax. ad an. 687; H. Hunt. lib. iv. Bromton, Col. 742, 758.

bert,

Kynygytha; and he left three ſons, Ethelbert, Eadbert, and Aldric; though the Saxon Chronicle names them Eadbert, Ethelbert, and Edmund, and ſays, they ſucceeded in turn to the crown.

## XII. ETHELBERT.

ETHELBERT ſucceeded his father Widred in the year 725, taking, according to ſome writers, his two brothers, Eadbert and Aldric, as partners with him in the government. But as this kingdom now made no great figure, hiſtorians have made little or no mention of it, or of the ſeveral princes who reigned over it.[a] In the year 748 Eadbert died; after whoſe death Ethelbert aſſociated with him Ardulph, his ſon, as partner in the government; and ſome letters are ſtill extant, which theſe princes wrote to Boniface, archbiſhop of Metz. It appears alſo, from the evidences of Chriſt church, Canterbury, in the *Decem Scriptores*, that this Ardulphus gave ſome land at Berghamſted, in this county, to Eadbert, abbot of Reculver. King Ethelbert died in the year 760, having ſurvived his brother Eadbert about twelve years. He was buried, as ſome write, at Reculver; but according to others, with his predeceſſors in ſaint Auguſtine's monaſtery, in Canterbury.

About this time there was one Sigeward, king of a part of Kent, if any credit is to be given to one of his grants, extant in the *Textus Roffenſis*, in which he ſtiles himſelf, *Rex dimidiæ partis provinciæ Cantuariorum*. It ſeems highly probable, that this kingdom had, for ſome time before this, been ſubdivided into ſeveral governments, and this might be one reaſon that no mention is made of them in our hiſtories, as being too inconſiderable to be noticed, in compariſon of the other princes of the heptarchy.

[a] Bede, lib. v. cap. 24; Flor. Worceſt. p. 572; Spelm. Councils, lib. i. f. 189; Bede; Flor. Worceſt. H. Hunt. Ib. Chr. Abſci Petri de Burgo.

## XIII. ALDRIC.

## XIII. ALDRIC.

ARDULPH died before his father, king Ethelbert, ſo that Aldric, the third, and only ſurviving ſon of Widred, ſucceeded to the crown. This prince was frequently attacked by his neighbours, who, perceiving the weak ſtate of the kingdom, thought it a fair opportunity to ſubdue it. Of theſe Offa, king of Mercia, was one of the moſt forward. In the year 774, Offa invaded Kent, and fought a famous battle with Aldric, at Otford in this county, where the former gained the victory, after a great ſlaughter on both ſides. This ſunk the affairs of Aldric exceeding low, and had not Offa been diverted from purſuing the fruits of his ſucceſs, by the invaſion of his own kingdom by the Welſh, he would then, in all likelihood, have united Kent to Mercia. Aldric had aſſociated his ſon Alcmund as partner with him on the throne; but this prince died before his father, and neither leaving any heirs, with them ended the right line of the Saxon kings of Kent, of the race of Hengiſt.[a]

## XIV. EADBERT-PREN.

AFTER the death of Aldric, Eadbert, or Edilbert, ſurnamed Pren, took poſſeſſion of the throne, but Cenulph, king of Mercia, did not ſuffer him to enjoy it long in peace; for taking advantage of the weak ſtate the kingdom was in, he ravaged it from one end to the other. At laſt, having defeated Eadbert, he carried him into Mercia, where he ordered his eyes to be put out, and his hands to be cut off.

## XV. CUDRED.

AFTER this, Cenulph placed one Cudred on the throne, who was in abſolute dependence on him. He

[a] Chron. Sax. Flor. Worceſt. p. 573; Alf. Ann. Text. Roff. p. 74; W. Malmſh. lib. i. cap. 1. H. Hunt. lib. iv.

began

began his reign about the year 797, and having reigned obſcurely about eight years, died in the year 805. Five of his coins in ſilver, are deſcribed in Hickes's Diſſertations and Epiſtles, p. 168, pl. iv.

## XVI. BALDRED.

BALDRED ſucceeded Cudred in the kingdom of Kent, and after a reign of eighteen years, in which time nothing memorable is recorded of him, was driven out of his kingdom by the victorious Egbert, king of the Weſt Saxons, and *the firſt ſole monarch* of that nation in Britain; who, ſending Ethelwulf his ſon, Biſhop Ealſtan, and his præfect, Wulfeard, with a great army, reduced this kingdom to his obedience, and drove Baldred acroſs the Thames into the northern parts; on which the South and Eaſt Saxons, and the people of Surry likewiſe ſubmitted themſelves to his government, and owned his ſovereignty. And thus, in the year 823,[a] ended the kingdom of Kent, properly ſo called, whilſt it had a diſtinct king of its own, after having continued in that ſtate about 368 years.

Egbert, who began his reign over the Weſt Saxons in the year 800, did not finiſh his conqueſts till 827, or 828, from which time his title of king of England is to be dated, as well as the diſſolution of the Saxon heptarchy. Notwithſtanding which, this prince was only in actual poſſeſſion of the antient kingdoms of Weſſex, Suſſex, Kent, and Eſſex, peopled by the Saxons. As for the other three kingdoms, whoſe inhabitants were Angles, he was contented with reſerving to himſelf the ſoverignty over them, permitting them to be governed by kings who were his vaſſals and tributaries, and for ſeveral ſucceſſions held their former uſual titles.

[a] Ethelwerd, lib. iii. c. 1, 2. S. Dunelm, Col. 11; Flor. Worc. ibid. W. Malmſb. lib. i. cap. 1. Matt. Weſtm. Alford's Ann. Ingulphus, Brady, p. 111.

SCARCE

SCARCE was the kingdom of Kent free from the miſeries of civil war and inteſtine ſquabbles, and the conſequence of them, before a new ſource of evil broke out, which ceaſed not till it had overwhelmed the whole nation. This was the invaſion of the Danes, an antient and numerous people, whom the Saxon Chronicle makes the ſame with the NORTHMANNI, or Normans, and Crantzius ſays, from the earlieſt times, were mortal enemies to the Saxons. Theſe ſeem to have come from the Scandia of Ptolemy, and thence to have flocked into the Cimbrica Cherſoneſus, where they overpowered the Angles that remained in it.

There is no mention made of the Danes before the time of the emperor Juſtinian, about the year 570, but then they began to invade France. The Latin writers of the hiſtory of England give them the name of Wiccingi, from the Saxon WICCINGI, a pirate; for piracy was their firſt and chief employment; they likewiſe termed them PAGANI, or Pagans, becauſe at that time they were not converted to the chriſtian religion.[b] Though the Danes had, for ſome years before the acceſſion of Egbert to the Engliſh monarchy, haraſſed the coaſts of Britain, their firſt landing being, according to Chron. Sax. and Flor. Worc. in 787, when they landed with three ſhips in the Weſt of England, being the firſt that ever had been ſeen here of that nation, yet the county of Kent remained free from their piracies till the year 832, when they invaded it with a numerous fleet, landing in the iſle of Shepey, where they met with no oppoſition, for Egbert having reigned more than ſeven years in the peaceable poſſeſſion of his conqueſts, had diſbanded his army. As the Danes had no deſign to make conqueſts, they contented themſelves with plundering the

[b] Camden, p. ccv. Chorographica Daniæ Deſcriptio, by J. Iſaac Pontanus, p. 639. See Mod. Univ. Hiſt. vol. xxxii. p. 2. Chron. Sax. an. 832. Camd. p. ccvi.

iſland and neighbouring country, and then returned again to their ſhips. From this time they continually made deſcents in different parts of England, making havoc of every thing, plundering and deſtroying the cities, burning the churches, and waſting the lands, with a moſt barbarous cruelty. After which they murdered the kings of the Mercians and Eaſt Angles, and then took poſſeſſion of their kingdoms, with great part of that of Northumberland.

Under Egbert's ſucceſſors, Kent now become part of the kingdom of England, remained without any material alterations, eſpecially after the ſeveral diſtributions of it were finally ſettled under king Alfred the Great. From its ſituation it was more particularly expoſed to the piracies and depredations of the Danes, and came ſucceſſively under the power and government of four of their kings, namely, Sweyn, Edmund Ironſide, Canute, and Hardicanute. From the time of Egbert, even to the Norman conqueſt, this country was miſerably harraſſed by them; particularly, in the year 838 they landed in Lincolnſhire, Eaſt Anglia, and Kent, with an army, killing abundance of people in each, and extending their ravages as far as Canterbury, Rocheſter, and even London itſelf, and having plundered thoſe cities, and committed unheard-of cruelties in them, they returned to their ſhips. In 851 they landed in Eſſex, and being beaten, from thence, retired to the iſle of Thanet, where they wintered. But king Ethelſtan giving them battle at Sandwich, both by ſea and land, defeated their army, and took nine of their ſhips. Notwithſtanding which, the next ſpring they came into the mouth of the Thames with three hundred and fifty ſhips, and landing in Kent, took and pillaged Lundenburg and Canterbury. After which they marched into Mercia,[a] and overthrew the

[a] Chron. Sax. Ethelwerd, lib. iii. cap. 2 Flor. Worceſt. p. 580. Camd. p. ccvi.

forces

forces that were ſent to oppoſe them, and, in all likelihood, they would have over-run all England, had not the news of king Ethelwulf and Athelſtan's intention of intercepting them obliged them to return and repaſs the Thames, with a deſign to encounter the two kings, who were encamped at Okley in Surry. Here a bloody battle was fought, wherein the Engliſh made ſo terrible a ſlaughter of the Danes, that very few eſcaped. This ill ſucceſs did not in the leaſt diſcourage theſe indefatigable thieves, for in the next year, 853, they invaded the iſle of Thanet, with a conſiderable force, and being attacked by earl Alcher, or Ealhere, with the Kentiſhmen, and earl Huda with thoſe of Surry, an obſtinate battle was fought, in which the Engliſh at firſt got ſome advantage. Great numbers were killed and drowned on both ſides, and the two Engliſh generals at length loſt their lives.

The next year the Danes wintered in the Iſle of Shepey, and king Ethelwulf, in hopes of obtaining the divine aſſiſtance againſt theſe dreadful enemies, granted to the church the tythes, or tenth part of the land throughout his dominions, diſcharging it from all taxes and tribute. After this Kent remained unmoleſted by them for ſome years; but in the autumn of the year 865, in the reign of king Ethelbert, grandſon of Egbert, they landed again in the iſle of Thanet, where they wintered, in order to begin their incurſions in the ſpring. The Kentiſhmen, who dreaded nothing more than their cruelty and oppreſſion, thought to divert this ſtorm by offering them a large ſum of money to go off quietly, which as ſoon as theſe treacherous robbers had received, they ruſhed into Kent and deſtroyed all the eaſtern parts of it with fire and ſword. King Ethelbert, though he was not then in a condition to be revenged of them, learned, however, by this treachery, that nothing but force could free the country from them. He therefore immediately made preparations for levying an

army, to intercept them in their retreat, and prevent them from carrying off their booty. This alarm terrified them ſo much, that they embarked haſtily with their plunder, before the king was in readineſs to uſe any poſſible means to prevent them. During the reign of king Ethelred, the younger brother and ſucceſſor of Ethelbert, the Danes carried on a continued war in this kingdom, and notwithſtanding the great bravery of king Ethelred, who in one year fought nine pitched battles with them, yet by the numerous ſuccours they received from their own country, and the diſſentions among the Engliſh, they found means to extend their conqueſts more and more every year, and on the death of that monarch, in 871, they were become maſters of Mercia, Eaſt Anglia, and Northumberland, with which, however, they were not contented, and could not forbear looking upon the remaining four kingdoms with a greedy eye.

Alfred, afterwards, for his noble and virtuous actions, ſurnamed the Great, ſucceeded his brother Ethelred in the throne of England, at a time when the Danes were preſſing forward with all their forces to gain poſſeſſion of the remaining parts of his kingdom, and they purſued the war with ſuch ſucceſs, that the king being abandoned by his troops, was forced to lie hid in a cottage in the iſle of Athelney, in Somerſetſhire, till ſome lucky and unexpected turn in his affairs might put him in a condition to recover his dominions. His good fortune ſoon brought this to paſs, and placed him at the head of an army ſufficient to give the Danes battle, over whom he gained a complete victory, and by it arrived at the height of his wiſhes; his enemies were driven out, and he recovered his kingdom; his ſubjects, whom fear had diſperſed or conſtrained to ſubmit to the Danes, continually flocking to him. The few Danes that eſcaped the carnage of this battle betook themſelves to a caſtle, where they were immediately beſieged. Alfred

fred, taking advantage of their conſternation, purſued it ſo briſkly that they ſoon capitulated, and he generouſly granted them ſuch terms as they had no hopes to expect; for he gave up the lands of Eaſt Anglia to ſuch of them as were willing to turn Chriſtians, and required the reſt immediately to quit the iſland, and never more to ſet foot in it again; and at the ſame time, he inveſted the Daniſh general, Guthurm, with the title of king of Eaſt Anglia, in which Alfred did nothing more than confirm to them the poſſeſſion of that kingdom, where they were already very powerful, by granting them a governor of their own nation, who was to be his vaſſal.[a]

There were in England at this time two ſorts of Danes; thoſe that were already ſettled, and thoſe who were endeavouring to procure themſelves habitations; with theſe laſt it was that Alfred principally treated.—As for the others, reflecting on what had happened to their brethren, they moſt of them, thought themſelves happy in the enjoyment of their poſſeſſions, and choſe rather to ſit down contented and acknowledge Alfred for their ſovereign, than to run the riſk of loſing their all by continuing the war. Accordingly the Danes, ſettled in the three kingdoms of the Angles, ſubmitted, and ſwore allegiance to him. But as many of them were inwardly much diſſatisfied with the terms of this treaty, and had accepted of them through neceſſity, and with the deſign of returning to their old courſe of life, the firſt favorable opportunity that offered, it was not long before the moſt conſiderable among them, headed by one Haſtings, earneſtly ſolicited Guthurm to renew the war, and on his refuſal they put to ſea, and went and ravaged the coaſts of Flanders, and ſhortly after another no leſs numerous troop of them,

[a] Chron. Sax. Ethelwerd. Flor. Worſt. p. 582. Aſſer. an. et. de vit. Alf. Sim. Dunelm. Col. 139. Ingulph. p. 17. W. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. 3. Rog. Hovenden, p. 417.

induced by the report of their plunder, ſhipped themſelves off to join them. Theſe two bands, thus united, over-run that whole country, and committed unheard-of cruelties. After which they agreed to ſail back to England, in hopes of plundering the country, where they imagined they ſhould come unexpected. For this purpoſe, they ſeparated their numerous fleet into two diviſions, one of which went towards the eaſt, and the other, at the ſame time, ſailed up the River Medway to Rocheſter, in hopes of ſurpriſing that city; but failing in this deſign, they ſtraitly beſieged it, caſting up a mount, in order to over-top the walls and deſtroy the works. But the citizens made a brave defence againſt them, till ſuch time as king Alfred, who, contrary to their expectation, had his army in readineſs, and on the firſt notice of the arrival of the Danes, was marching towards them, came to the relief of the city; on whoſe approach they inſtantly fled to their ſhips, leaving their plunder behind them; they then returned to France, and after ſome time rejoined their companions, and continued their devaſtations in that country. Alfred, ſenſible that a powerful fleet was the beſt ſecurity to protect the coaſts from the continual invaſions and plunder of the Danes, took the opportunity of the peace he then enjoyed to equip a conſiderable one, which putting to ſea, had orders to cruiſe along the coaſts, and to deſtroy theſe rovers wherever they could be met with. Having thus ſecured the ſea-coaſts, Alfred diligently fortified the reſt of the kingdom with caſtles and walled towns, which he ſtood in great need of; theſe ſerved equally to defend it againſt the foreign Danes, and to keep thoſe in awe that were ſettled in the iſland, who ſeeing ſuch wiſe precautions taken by the king, were the more diſpoſed to continue in a quiet ſubmiſſion to him.

The happy calm of peace that ſucceeded theſe troubles laſted eight years, when it was again interrupted by freſh invaſions; for the Danes, who in the mean time,

time, under the conduct of Haſtings, had been ravaging France and the Low Countries, and, according to the cuſtom of pirates, had prodigally ſquandered away the fruits of their robberies, being diſtreſſed for ſubſiſtance turned their thoughts towards England, and reſolved to return and plunder the iſland. For this purpoſe, in the year 893, they fitted out a great number of ſhips, which they divided into two fleets; with one of theſe, conſiſting of two hundred and fifty ſail, they came into the mouth of the river Limene, or Rother, in this county, and going up about four miles from the mouth of the haven, they attacked and took a ſmall fort, ſituated in the marſhes, which had not been quite finiſhed, and was but ill defended. From whence ſailing up as high as Appledore, they intrenched themſelves there, and built a ſtrong fort for their defence. The other diviſion, which was under the command of Haſtings, entered the Thames mouth, and landed at Middleton (Milton) near Sittingbourn, in this county. Here the Danes built a caſtle, the ſcite of which, now called the Caſtle-ruff, is ſtill viſible at Kemſley-downs, about a quarter of a mile north-eaſt beyond the church there, and on the other ſide of the creek from Kemſley-downs are the remains of ſome ſtone-work and ditches, being part of the fortifications made by Alfred againſt the Danes; the place is now called Baford-caſtle, and is in the pariſh of Sittingbourn, but at what time they were made is uncertain; after which they ravaged and plundered the adjoining country in a mercileſs manner.—King Alfred, who was at this time in Eaſt Anglia, on receiving intelligence of theſe invaſions, thought it prudent to take a new oath of fidelity from the Eaſt Anglian Danes, who, however, when they were no longer reſtrained by his preſence, went and joined Haſtings and their countrymen, in order to partake of the plunder. The king, having drawn together what forces he could, marched towards Kent; but being informed that another body of Danes had entered Weſſex, he

was obliged to alter his courſe, and advance towards them as the moſt dangerous enemy.[a] He ſoon found theſe pirates a many-headed monſter, which it would be almoſt impoſſible for him to ſubdue; for there were ſeveral bands of them, ravaging England, and roving about in diſtant parts of it at the ſame time, and whenever any of them received intelligence of his being near them, that party haſtily withdrew and vented their fury in ſome other place; therefore, after having haraſſed his army for ſome time in fruitleſs endeavours to come up with them, he was forced to content himſelf with encamping in a place where he could prevent their joining from all parts in one grand body. England was now reduced by theſe cruel enemies, who ſpread deſolution over the whole face of it, to the moſt deplorable extremity, when it was at once freed from them, by what in this caſe may be called a fortunate event: this was the plague, which then began to rage, and ſwept off great numbers of Danes as well as Engliſh. This dreadful diſtemper drove them over again into France, in 894 though not till they had plundered the country in ſuch a manner, that there was little left for them to pillage. To keep theſe enemies from the coaſts for the future, king Alfred had invented a ſort of galley, by which he afterwards deſtroyed great numbers as they attempted to land; ſoon after which the Danes that were ſettled here ſubmitted to him, and acknowledged him for ſovereign of all England.

King Alfred enjoyed this tranquility but a few years, for he died in the year 901, leaving behind him the character of a juſt, learned, and religious prince, a lover of his people, and an indefatigable promoter of their welfare and the good of his country. To him we owe at this time the principal part of our preſent excellent conſtitution of Engliſh government. The

[a] Aſſer. et de vit. Alf. W. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. iv. Sim. Dunelm, Col. 129, and Bromton, Col. 112. Chron. Sax. H. Hunt. lib. v.

death

death of Alfred brought on freſh troubles to this country; for his ſon Edward, ſurnamed the Elder, having ſucceeded him, Ethelward, eldeſt ſon of Ethelbert, king Alfred's elder brother, reſolved to diſpute the crown with him. To accompliſh this purpoſe, he took refuge with the Danes, who were already up in arms, and eſpouſing his cauſe, proclaimed him king of England, pretending, as they were in poſſeſſion of one half of the kingdom, they had as much right to make a king as the Weſt Saxons. This brought on a civil war, in which Ethelward was aſſiſted by the Danes in general, and by a large body of Normans which he had obtained from France. In the year 902, a battle was fought between the Kentiſhmen and the Danes, at a place called Holme, or Holmewood, in Suſſex, in which the latter were worſted. But three years after this the Kentiſhmen, who compoſed part of king Edward's army, in their return from purſuing the Danes, happening to ſtay too far behind, were ſurrounded by their enemies, whereupon an obſtinate and bloody engagement enſued, in which ſeveral were killed on both ſides; on one ſide Ethelward himſelf was ſlain; and on the other, duke Sigulf, earl Sigelm, and many other noblemen; but in the end the Danes remained maſters of the field of battle. Soon after this the Danes ſued for peace; king Edward was acknowledged by them as their ſovereign, and the Danes returned home.

This peace could not hold long between the two nations, ſo exaſperated againſt each other; accordingly, after three years the war was renewed between them. In the interim of which, king Edward had provided a hundred ſail of ſhips on the Kentiſh coaſt, and was himſelf there to ſee them fitted out. In the ſubſequent wars with king Edward, the Danes were continually worſted; and the king ſo well improved every advantage he gained over them, that ſome time before his death, he had compelled them once more to ſubmit and acknowledge him for their ſovereign. Notwithſtanding

ſtanding which, thoſe Danes ſettled in England gave the ſucceeding monarchs of it frequent troubles, making the kingdom for ſome time a diſmal ſcene of war and bloodſhed; yet each reign reduced them more and more to a ſtate of ſubjection to the Weſt Saxon monarchs; and when Ethelred the Second ſucceeded to the crown in 978,[a] England had enjoyed a domeſtic tranquility for ſome years; the precautions and good management of his predeceſſors had ſecured the country from foreign invaſions, and had he followed their ſteps, he might, in all probability, have enjoyed a happy and peaceful reign; but his natural cowardice, joined to a ſluggiſh diſpoſition, an inſatiable avarice, and other failings, ſoon convinced his enemies they had nothing to fear from him: accordingly, it was not long before he found himſelf attacked by the old inveterate enemies of his country, the foreign Danes. For ſixty years paſt theſe pirates had, in appearance, laid aſide all thoughts of England; and the Engliſh, on their ſide, had loſt all remembrance of the calamities they had ſuffered from the hands of thoſe cruel enemies. Though many of the Engliſh Danes, during this period, ſeemed to have contracted the ſame affection for this their adopted country as the natives themſelves; yet, no ſooner did their foreign countrymen appear; but, reſuming their old behaviour, they joined them, in hopes of improving the preſent opportunity of freeing themſelves from the dominion of the Engliſh. To deſcribe at length every tranſaction which happened between the two nations after this, would be inconſiſtent with the deſign of this hiſtory: I ſhall, therefore, confine myſelf chiefly to the recital of thoſe matters which more particularly relate to this county. In the year 980, the foreign Danes made their firſt attempt

[a] Chron. Sax. Aſſer. in vit. Alfo. Flor. Worceſt. p. 595; S. Dunelm. Col. 151; Hen. Hunt. lib. v. cap. 4. Ethelwerd, lib. iv cap. 2. Bromton, Col. 831 et ſeq. M. Weſtm. R. Hoveden, p. 421 et ſeq.

on

on Southampton, where they arrived with ſeven ſhips; and after plundering the town, and the adjacent country, they ſailed to the iſle of Thanet, and waſted the whole iſland; whilſt others of them landed in other parts of England, and committed the like outrages wherever they came. Theſe frequent deſcents in different parts diſtreſſed the Engliſh exceedingly; they knew not where to aſſemble or expect the enemy; if at any time they could come up with them, and gained the advantage, they only recovered the plunder; but if they were worſted, the country was aſſuredly expoſed to all imaginable cruelties, before another force could be drawn together. In 991, a time when almoſt all parts of this realm felt the fury of the Danes, the pariſh of Stone, in this county, was entirely ſpoiled and burnt by them; and the next year a band of them, having landed and plundered ſeveral parts of Kent, Eſſex, and Suffolk, penetrated ſtill farther into the country, king Ethelred being without an army, and unable to ſtop their progreſs, when Siricius, archbiſhop of Canterbury, and other nobles, perſuaded him to give them ten thouſand pounds (a large ſum of money at that time) to quit the kingdom. This advice proved afterwards fatal to England. The preſent given to theſe robbers ſerved only to allure others, who, no leſs greedy of money, thought they had an equal right to make the ſame advantage of the weakneſs of the Engliſh. It even tempted Sweyn, king of Denmark, and Olaus, king of Norway, to fit out a numerous fleet, in hopes of ſharing the ſame good ſucceſs. Theſe princes, in the year 993, came to Sandwich, with a fleet of ninety-three ſhips, and having plundered it, and the coaſt of Kent, returned with their booty. The next year they entered the Thames, and having in vain attempted to become maſters of London, they ravaged the coaſts of Kent, Hampſhire, Eſſex, and Suſſex, threatening to lay waſte the whole kingdom, unleſs they had a large ſum of money given them to deſiſt. Ethel-

red,

red, who had no more conduct than courage, not knowing how to put a ſtop to theſe plunderers, bound himſelf by treaty to pay them no leſs a ſum than ſixteen thouſand pounds, within a limited time; whereupon the two foreign kings cauſed all hoſtilities to ceaſe, and retired to Southampton, where they wintered. King Sweyn did not long remain quiet; for, under pretence of the ſtipulated ſum not being paid within the time agreed on, he renewed the war again, and deſtroyed the weſtern parts of England with great cruelty. At laſt, finding nothing more to plunder there, he put to ſea again; and in the year 998, ſailing up the river Medway, landed at Rocheſter; the inhabitants, by endeavouring to reſiſt him, encreaſed his fury, and being overpowered, were treated with the utmoſt barbarity. After which the Danes again pillaged the weſtern parts of the county.

King Ethelred, in the mean time, equipped a fleet, in hopes of meeting with them at ſea; but this was rendered uſeleſs, through the diſſenſions and unſkilfulneſs of the commanders, and the fleet did not appear till the Danes were departed home; whence, however, they ſoon returned with double fury, and ſpread ſuch a ſcene of miſery over the whole kingdom, as it had hardly ever felt before; their plunders, murders, fires, and devaſtations being univerſal over the whole face of it. The king himſelf was ſeized with ſuch a terror, that he durſt not venture in perſon againſt them; and the Engliſh Danes not only refuſed to fight againſt their countrymen, but joined with theſe pirates to deſtroy the country.[a] In this extremity, Ethelred, irreſolute and timorous, and far from imitating the firmneſs of his anceſtors, who were never daunted by misfortunes, with the advice of his council, yielded to pay the Danes

[a] W. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. 10; Flor. Worceſt. p. 608; S. Dunelm. Col. 161; Bromton, Col. 877; R. Hoveden, p. 427; and M. Weſtm. an. 980; Chron. Sax. Hen. Hunt. lib. v. R. Hoveden, p. 428.

a large

a large ſum of money, as the only means of preventing the continuance of theſe miſeries in which the nation was involved. The ſum ſtipulated was twenty-four thouſand pounds (a very conſiderable one in thoſe days) which was levied by a tax, called *Danegeld*, being twelve pence on every hide of land throughout England. A tax which was ſeverely burthenſome to the nation, even after the Danes had quitted England, and was ſo fatal a precedent to the ſucceeding monarchs, that it may be ſaid to be felt by the Engliſh even at this time. The Danes, ſatisfied with this, ceaſed their ravages, and moſt of them returned home. Many, however, ſtaid behind, and lived among the Engliſh; who, diſpirited by their paſt calamities, were fearful of giving the leaſt umbrage, which might cauſe a renewal of the war, which made them exceedingly inſolent. They abounded in wealth and eaſe, whilſt the miſerable Engliſh were forced to labour and toil inceſſantly, to ſatisfy the avarice of their new maſters. The burthen of this yoke was ſo inſupportable to the whole kingdom, that it inſpired the king with the fatal reſolution of deſtroying the Danes by a general maſſacre. To execute this project, orders were ſent ſo privately throughout the kingdom, that in one night, November 13, 1002, they were all ſlain. This expedient, inſtead of throwing off the yoke, ſerved only to make it more heavy and inſupportable. King Sweyn, having received the news of this maſſacre, ſwore ſolemnly he would never reſt till he had taken revenge for ſo bloody an outrage. His next expedition was not undertaken, therefore, with an intent to plunder only, but to deſtroy the whole country and people in it. This he endeavoured to execute with great cruelty for ſome years, until a famine, which happened in 1005, obliged him to return to Denmark for want of ſubſiſtence. But the very next year, as ſoon as ever the famine had ceaſed, he again ſailed for England, and arrived at Sandwich, and immediately laid waſte the neighbouring country.

King

King Ethelred levied an army as ſoon as poſſible, in hopes of giving the Danes battle; but they retired to the iſle of Thanet, where it was out of the power of his forces to attack them; and winter coming on, the Engliſh returned to their homes. Then the Danes, iſſuing from their retreat, renewed their ravages, well aſſured they ſhould meet with no oppoſition; and the king, in order to ſtop their progreſs, which threatened the ruin of the whole kingdom, had recourſe to that fatal palliative, ſo much wiſhed for and expected by his enemies, the giving them a ſum of money, thirty-ſix thouſand pounds; on which they returned home again. Hardly had a year paſſed ſince the above treaty, when the Danes again demanded that ſum, pretending it to be a yearly tribute due to them by contract with king Ethelred, and this demand was accompanied with threats of deſtroying the whole kingdom, if the money was not immediately paid. This the king was obliged to comply with. However, theſe new pretenſions, convincing him, there was no poſſibility of ever contenting their unſatiable avarice, he determined to equip a fleet capable of defending the kingdom againſt them. Neceſſity cauſed the king's orders to be directly put in practice; and he quickly had ready for ſervice the largeſt and beſt fleet England had ever ſeen, the rendezvous of which was at Sandwich. Theſe meaſures obliged the Danes, who wiſhed to avoid a ſea engagement with the Engliſh, to retire, and wait for a more convenient oportunity, which ſoon after happened; for this great equipment, by the treachery and diſſentions among the principal commanders of it, was rendered of no uſe; part of it was deſtroyed by pirates; another part of it was loſt in a violent tempeſt; and the remainder, inſufficient to cope with the enemy, ſailed up to London. In the mean time the Danes were preparing to take advantage of theſe diſorders. The next ſpring (anno 1009) they ſet ſail, in two fleets, for England;

land; one of which arrived in East Anglia, under Turkill, and the other in the isle of Thanet, under Heming and Anlaff; from the former of whom several places in this county still retain the name of *Heming's Dane*. These leaders joining their forces in Kent, plundered the country, and then laid siege to Canterbury, which would certainly have fallen into their hands if the inhabitants had not purchased a peace with the sum of three thousand pounds.[a]

Whilst the Danes were pillaging different parts of the country, king Ethelred was drawing an army together, with which he designed to prevent their embarking again, and carrying off their booty; and, in all probability, this would have been attended with the wished-for success, had not the king listened to the treacherous advice of one of his nobles; in compliance of which, he suffered them to march by him with all their plunder unmolested. But instead of sailing for Denmark, as was expected, these robbers threw themselves into the isle of Thanet, where they wintered, and subsisted themselves by the incursions they continually made in the neighbouring country, and on each side of the Thames; they even made several attempts upon the city of London, but without success. In the following spring they refitted their ships in Kent; and after various expeditions into different parts of England, they crossed the Thames in 1010, and marching into the marshes of Kent, burnt and destroyed whatever they met with, according to their usual custom. Shortly after this they extended their conquests over a great part of England. They had subdued Kent, Essex, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire, Surry, Sussex, Hampshire,

[a] Flor. Worcest. p. 611; S. Dunelm. Col. 164; Bromton, Col. 879; M. West. ad an. 1002; H. Hunt. lib. vi. T. Walsingham, p. 427; Alf. Ann. 1002 et seq. Spelm. Gloss. p. 161; R. Hoveden, p. 430.

Wiltshire,

Wiltſhire, and Devonſhire, whilſt king Ethelred, who had ſcarce any thing left, kept himſelf ſhut up in London, without a poſſibility of ſtopping their progreſs. In all the above-mentioned counties, London and Canterbury were the only places of ſtrength left in the king's power; to the latter the Danes quickly marched, and having beſieged it vigorouſly for twenty days, took it by the treachery of one Elmar. Among the priſoners were Elphege the archbiſhop, Elfword the king's præfect, Godwine, biſhop of Rocheſter, and Leofruna, abbeſs of ſaint Mildred's monaſtery, in Thanet; beſides numbers of religious, both men and women. They then plundered and reduced the city to aſhes; and as for the inhabitants they decimated them, deſtroying nine parts in ten of them, ſo that only four monks and about eight hundred laymen were left alive. After which they returned to their fleet, which lay in the Thames, at Greenwich; carrying with them the archbiſhop, whom they afterwards barbarouſly murdered there.

England being now reduced to this moſt deplorable ſtate, the king and his nobles found, by experience, that the Danes would not be ſatisfied, except they had a large ſum of money paid them to return home; to this expedient they were forced to ſubmit, and as ſoon as the Danes had received it they departed with their booty. Though this retreat coſt England dear, yet the people thought themſelves happy in being once more freed from theſe dreadful enemies; but they had hardly enjoyed a year's peace, before they received the news of Sweyn's having arrived at Sandwich with a numerous fleet, and a reſolution of making a conqueſt of England; from thence he ſailed northwards towards the mouth of the Humber and Trent, threatening the whole kingdom with deſolation and ruin. In ſhort, the country being in a defenceleſs ſtate, he ſoon made himſelf maſter of all the counties lying north of Watling-ſtreet; and advancing ſouthwards, on a ſudden laid

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ſiege to London, where king Ethelred remained ſhut up; but this unfortunate prince, dreading to fall into the hands of theſe barbarians, haſtily fled with his family into Normandy; upon which the Londoners ſubmitted to the king of Denmark, to whom all the reſt of the kingdom was now ſubject. Preſently after he was proclaimed king of England, no one daring to ſhew the leaſt oppoſition to it. On king Sweyn's death, which happened within twelve months after this, his ſon Canute was proclaimed king of England by the Danes; but Ethelred was recalled by the Engliſh, who again ſwore fealty to him, and promiſed to ſupport him againſt the Danes, whoſe government was already become inſupportable to them. By their eagerneſs to flock to him he ſoon found himſelf at the head of a conſiderable army, with which he prepared to march and fight his enemies. But Canute having in the mean time received news from Denmark, that Harold, his younger brother, had ſeized on that kingdom for himſelf, was obliged to embark his troops, and ſet ſail thither immediately; but before his departure he ſet the hoſtages, which had been given to king Sweyn his father, on ſhore at Sandwich, having, in a moſt barbarous and cruel manner, cut off their hands, noſes, and ears. Canute, having ſettled his affairs in Denmark, returned the next year (anno 1015) to England, and arrived at Sandwich with a numerous fleet and army. However, he ſtaid there but a ſhort time; when, ſailing round Kent to the weſtern parts of the kingdom, he quickly ſubdued them, and ſoon ſaw himſelf in a condition to complete the conqueſt of all England.[a]

In the midſt of this ſcene of miſery Ethelred died, in the year 1016, upon which the city of London, and all the lords there, proclaimed his ſon Edmund, ſur-

[a] Flor. Worceſt. p. 613; H. Hunt. lib. vi. S. Dunelm, Col. 167; Bromton, Ib. R. Hoveden, p. 431; Alf. Ann. W. Malm. lib. ii. cap. 10.

named *Ironſide*, who had already given ſignal proofs of his courage and conduct, king of England: but the Danes, and all the counties in their poſſeſſion, declared for Canute, whereupon, the biſhops and nobles of that party, went to Southampton, where they abjured the race of Ethelred, at the ſame time they choſe Canute for their king, and ſwore feality to him. This occaſioned many engagements, which were attended with various ſucceſs, and ſerved only to prolong the war. London being a great ſupport of king Edmund, the Daniſh king thought the depriving him of it would, in a great meaſure, put a ſpeedy end to the war; with this view he approached that city, and forming the ſiege of it, carried it on vigorouſly; but the brave reſiſtance of the citizens giving Edmond time to throw in ſuccours, Canute was not only obliged to raiſe the ſiege, but to ſail down the Thames with his fleet, and thence up the Medway, in order to ſecure his navy. In the mean time, king Edmund, paſſing the Thames with his army, marched after Canute through Surry into Kent, and encountered the Danes at Otford, in this county, where he gained a victory over them, and, making a great ſlaughter, purſued them as far as Ayleſford in their rout to the iſle of Shepey; and had he not deſiſted from the purſuit there, by the treacherous advice of his ſon-in-law, Edric, he would, in all probability, within the compaſs of that day, have made the victory complete over their whole army. He afterwards paſſed the Thames into Eſſex after them, and various battles were fought between them in different parts of England, which in the end produced a treaty, by which they divided the kingdom between them. King Edmund did not long ſurvive this peace; he died in the year 1017, and Canute remained ſole monarch of England, and all the lords, both Engliſh and Daniſh, ſoon ſwore allegiance to him.

After the death of Canute, and of his ſon, king Harold, without iſſue, in the year 1039, his brother Hardicanute,

dicanute, who was then at Bruges, in Flanders, with queen Emma his mother, coming over to England, to claim the crown, arrived with a fleet of forty ſhips, about Midſummer, at Sandwich, where he landed; and was afterwards received with great demonſtrations of joy, both by the Engliſh and Danes. He was ſucceeded by king Edward the Confeſſor, in whoſe reign ſome Daniſh pirates, in the year 1046, putting to ſea with twenty-five ſhips, arrived unexpectedly at Sandwich, and having plundered the neighbouring country, carried off their booty, not without great ſlaughter of the inhabitants. Then ſailing for Eſſex, they carried away with them grdat numbers of both ſexes, and of all conditions; and though the Engliſh were at firſt much terrified, yet the nobles took ſuch vigorous meaſures, that the Danes haſtily retired, and carried their ravages elſewhere. After which, to the time of the Norman conqueſt, which happened in the year 1066, no tranſactions of the Danes occur, which have any particular relation to the county of Kent.[a]

THOUGH the Saxons had divided England into ſeven different kingdoms, yet they were all one, in effect, as to their manners, laws, and language, inſomuch that the breaking of their government into many kingdoms, or the reuniting of theſe again into a monarchy, wrought little or no change among them, as to the laws by which they were governed; for though we read of the *Weſt Saxon law*, the *Mercian law*, and the *Dane law*, ſubſiſting, as many contend, in the ſeveral parts of Britain at the ſame time, yet they all held a uniformity of ſubſtance, differing rather in the quality of fines and amerciaments than in the courſe

[a] Flor. Worceſt. p. 616. W. Malmſb. and H. Hunt. S. Dunelm. Col. 171. Bromton, Col. 903. M. Weſtm. an. 1016.

and frame of juſtice Therefore, when all theſe kingdoms grew into one monarchy, as under Egbert, Alfred, and his ſucceſſors, it bred no innovation in any of them; the king had no new laws to impoſe on his new ſubjects, nor were they unacquainted with his form of government, having always lived according to it; ſo that when king Edward the Confeſſor took away the ſmall differences that were between theſe laws, he did it, even in thoſe fickle and inconſtant times, without any tumult, making his alteration, rather by giving a new name to his code than furniſhing it with new matter, for aboliſhing all former names, he ordered it to be called, *The Common Law of England*; by which from thenceforth the whole kingdom ſhould be governed.[a]

The *temporal government* was divided into principalities, or dukedoms, which contained in them divers counties; the county into divers laths, or trithings, every lath, or trithing, into divers hundreds, or wapentakes, every hundred into divers towns, or lordſhips, ſhortly after called baronies, and the government of all theſe was committed to their ſeveral heads, viz. towns, or manors, to the lord thereof, whom the Saxons called *theings*, or *thanes*, afterwards barons, hundreds to the Lords of the Hundreds, trithings, or laths, to their *trithingreves*, counties to their Earls, or Aldermen, and the larger principalities to their Dukes, or chief princes. All of whom had ſubordinate authority, one under the other, and within the precinct of their own territories, adminiſtered juſtice to their ſubjects and dependants. For in the Saxon times there were, ſtrictly ſpeaking, only theſe degrees among the laity; viz. the *earl* and the *huſbandman*, the thane of the greater ſort, called the *king's thane*, and the thane of the leſſer ſort, called the *theoden*, or *under thane*, as for the *bondmen*, they were not accounted members of the

[a] Spelm. Poſth. Works, part ii. p. 49. Bromton, Col. 956, 957. Pol. Virg. p. 139.

commonwealth,

commonwealth, but parcels of their maſter's goods and ſubſtance. As to lands, there were only two ſorts of it among the Saxons; *Bockland*, which was free and hereditary, and paſſed by deed with livery and ſeizin, which was made and given by taking of a turf from the land, and delivering it with the deed; or paſſed by will, unleſs the firſt purchaſer had prohibited it. This ſort of land was poſſeſſed by the Thanes, or nobler ſort. It is the ſame as *allodium* in Domeſday, and was deſcendable to all the ſons.—*Folkland* was *terra vulgi*, land of the folk, or common people, who had no eſtate therein, but held the ſame, according to agreement, at the will only of the lord, or thane; therefore it was not put in writing, but accounted *prædium ruſticum et ignobile*.[b]

The Thane, or Lord, of the town (whom the Normans afterwards called a Baron) had, of old, juriſdiction over them of his own town (being, as it were, his colony) and, as Cornelius Tacitus ſaith, *Agricolis ſuis jus dicebat*; for thoſe, whom we now call tenants, were, in thoſe antient times, but huſbandmen, dwelling upon the ſoil of the lord, and manuring the ſame, on ſuch conditions as the lord aſſigned; or elſe ſuch as were his followers in the wars, and had portions of land given to them in reſpect of that ſervice, which portion was thereupon called a *knight's fee*, from him, who being a ſervant in the war, whom the Saxons called a knight, had it allotted to him, as the fee and wages of his ſervice. Theſe fees at firſt were but at the lord's pleaſure, or for a limited time, and, therefore, both military and huſbandmen were in that ſituation, as to the lands they occupied, at the will of their lord, who ſet them laws and cuſtoms, how and in what manner they ſhould poſſeſs them, and whenever any controverſy aroſe about them, the lord uſed to aſſemble the reſt of his followers, and with their aſſiſtance and

[b] Spelm. part ii. p. 11. Chauncy's Hertf. p. 6.

advice judged it. Out of which uſage the *court barons* took their beginning, and the lords of towns and manors gained the privilege of holding plea and juriſdiction within ſuch territories over their tenants and followers, who, from thence, are at this time called *ſectatores*, or *ſuitors of the court*, but the Saxons themſelves called this juriſdiction *ſacha and ſoca*, or *ſac and ſoc*. And in this manner the lords of towns, as from the cuſtom of the realm, came to have juriſdiction over their tenants and followers, and to hold plea of all things touching land, but they did not take cognizance in criminal matters, or otherwiſe meddle with them, but by the king's charters.

As to the keeping of the *king's peace*, every hundred was divided into many freeburgs, or tithings, conſiſting of ten families, who ſtood all bound one for another, and among themſelves puniſhed ſmall matters in their court, held for that purpoſe, called *the lete*, which was, at its firſt inſtitution, exerciſed by peculiar officers, but for no long time, being ſoon, by the king's charter, granted over to the lords of manors. But matters of great account were, notwithſtanding, carried from thence into the *hundred courts*, ſo that both the ſtreams of civil and criminal juſtice met there, and were decided by the *hundreds*, &c. as by ſuperior judges both to the *court baron* and *court lete*.[a]

The *lord of the hundred*, therefore, had juriſdiction over all the towns of the hundred, as well in criminal matters as in civil, and they that failed of their right in the courts baron, tithings or letes, might proſecute it there, before the lord of the hundred, and his followers, called the ſuitors of the hundred, who were the lords and owners of lands within that hundred, who were bound to be there at every court, which, as appears by the laws of Henry I. cap. 8. was to be holden twelve times in the year, that is, once every

[a] Spelm. Poſth. Works, part ii. p. 51.

month

month; but a full appearance was required twice in the year eſpecially; in memory whereof, the ſuitors are at this day called to it, at the Lady-day and Michaelmas courts, by the ſteward of the hundred.

King Alfred further decreed, that every freeman ſhould be ſettled in ſome hundred, and appointed to ſome freeborg, or tithing (as did king Canute afterwards) and that the heads of theſe *freeborgs*, or *tithings* (now called *capitales plegii*) ſhould judge the ſmaller matters, as in leets, &c. but ſhould reſerve the greater for the hundred court, and thoſe of moſt difficulty to the alderman and ſheriff, in the county court, and king Ethelred decreed, that in the hundred court, twelve men of the elder ſort, together with the reve of the hundred, ſhould, holding their hands upon ſome holy thing, take their oath not to condemn any man that was innocent, or acquit him when guilty.

The *thrithingreve* or *leidgreve* was an officer who had authority over the third or larger diſtrict of the county, or over three or more hundreds, or wapentakes, whoſe territory was thereupon called a *trything*; in ſome counties a *leid*, or *lath*, as in the county of Kent; a *rape*, as in Suſſex; and a *riding*, as in Yorkſhire. Thoſe matters, therefore, that could not be determined in the hundred courts, either through difficulty or miſcarriage thereof, were from thence brought into the court of the *trithing*, or *lath*, where all the principal men of the three or more hundreds being aſſembled, debated and determined the ſame, or if they could not, it was then ſent up to the *county court*, to be there decided, as in parliament, by the whole body of the county. And it is probable, that the courſe we now uſe for the taking of a jury out of many hundreds in a county, for the trial of a cauſe ariſing in one hundred, took its beginning from the trial in the court of the *trithing* or *lath*, which latter thereupon grew out of uſe.

The *alderman*, or *earl of the county*, was in parallel equal with the biſhop, and as ſuch both their eſtimations were valued alike, in the laws of Ethelſtane, at eight thouſand *thrymſes* (a *thrymſa* was the third part of a ſhilling). He was to be a man learned in the laws, and had the government of the whole ſhire, and cognizance over all inferior courts, and perſons, both in civil and criminal matters. For which purpoſe he held his ordinary court, called the *county court*, by the *ſhreve*, once every month; and there reſorted as ſuitors, and bound by duty all the lords of manors and principal men of the county, with the reſt of the freeholders, who were not only aſſiſtants, but judges with him, of all matters there depending, whether ariſing originally there, or by appeal from inferior courts. As the biſhop had twice a year *two general ſynods*, wherein the whole clergy of his dioceſe were bound to reſort for matters concerning the church, ſo alſo was there, twice in the year, a *general aſſembly* of all the ſhire, called by the Saxons, the *ſhyre-gemot*, or *ſheriff's tourn*, for matters concerning the common-wealth, wherein, without exception, all kinds of eſtates were required to be preſent; dukes, earls, barons, and ſo downwards of the laity, and eſpecially the biſhop of the dioceſe among the clergy; for in thoſe days the temporal lords often ſat in ſynod with the biſhops, and the biſhops, in like manner, in the courts of the temporality, and were therein not only neceſſary, but principal judges themſelves. The one to teach the laws of God, and the other, the laws of the land. The ſheriff's tourn being in a manner the general court leet, as the county court was the general court baron of the whole county.

The *county court* is at this time conſtantly held at the county houſe on Pinenden-heath, by the clerk of the county court, from Wedneſday to Wedneſday four weeks, for civil actions, when a jury of the neighbouring reſiants is impanelled, for the trying of the ſame, but all matters of any conſequence are uſually removed from

from thence to the upper courts, by writs of *recordari*. The *ſhyre gemot* or *ſheriff's-tourn*, is grown entirly obſolete, not having been held in the memory of any one now living.

The *title and dignity of earl* was certainly taken from the antient conſtitution of the Romans, from whom it was tranſmitted to the Saxons by the Germans, their anceſtors; for when the Roman empire was grown to its full ſtrength,[a] the emperors had a certain privy council, which they conſulted as well in the time of war as in peace, called *Cæſaris comitatus*, and the members thereof had the title of *comites*; but when Conſtantine the Great altered the conſtitution of the empire by new diſtinctions, and endeavoured to oblige the people to him by large gifts and great honors, he made the title of *comes*, or *count*, as the Normans termed it, a title of dignity without any function or government, and annexed to it ſeveral privileges about the perſon himſelf. At length, he granted to theſe *comites* other dignities with authority and government, and ſuch were the *Comes Britanniarum*, or *Count of Britain*; and the *Comes Littoris Saxonici*, or *Count of the Saxon Shore*, under the government of the Romans in Britain. Theſe *comites* had fees annexed to them during the emperor's pleaſure, which at firſt were temporary, and afterwards for life, but about the declenſion of the empire they became hereditary, and when it was rent into many kingdoms, this title ſtill remained. The Saxons named them in their own language, *ealdormen*, though they ſtill termed them in Latin *comites*, and *conſules*; and when they divided this land into provinces, called in Saxon ſhires, and in Latin *comitatus*, they conſtituted theſe *comites*, or *ealdormen*, to govern them, and for the more ready diſpatch of juſtice, king Alfred allowed theſe counts to make deputies, who

[a] Selden's Tit. of Hon. p. 604. Spelm. Poſth. Works, part ii. p. 53. Seld. Ib. p. 331. Dugd. Warwickſh. p. 298.

were

were called *vice-comites* or *viſcounts*, and in their own tongue, ſheriffs; i. e. the *ſhyre-reeve*, from the Saxon word, *gereſa*, or *gereva*, a provoſt, præfect, or ſteward, to diſtribute juſtice to the people in their provincial, or county courts. This dignity of ealdorman, or count, was generally officiary and temporary, during the pleaſure of the prince; for, before the year 900, king Alfred granted and revoked it, as he thought beſt, ſo that when he accuſed ſeveral of them of ignorance, with threats to remove them, if they did not learn and improve themſelves in the knowledge of matters belonging to their office, they, frightened with theſe menaces, earneſtly applied themſelves to this ſtudy, that they might diſcharge the duty of their office, and keep their places. When the Danes prevailed againſt the Saxons, and obtained the government of this land, they called theſe ealdormen, or coûnts, *eorlas*, that is, *honourable*, from which name, ſomewhat mollified, ſprung that of our modern *earl*. Theſe earls had, it ſeems, juriſdiction in their earldoms, or territories, from whence they were denominated, and not, as at preſent, merely titular, men taking their titles now according to their own fancy, ſometimes of places where they have no property, and ſometimes of an old extinct family, with whom perhaps they never had any alliance or connection. The *earl* had ſometimes the government of ſeveral counties, ſometimes only of one, and ſometimes of only parcels of counties, which entirely depended upon the king's pleaſure. As to the profits accruing to him, if the whole territory was his own, then thoſe of the courts held, and of the juriſdiction, ſuch as the pleas, fines, and foreign emoluments, were to his own uſe and benefit, but if he did not own the ſame, but only ſome particular revenue in it belonging to his dignity, then, it ſeems, the profits of his juriſdiction and courts (except perhaps in his own poſſeſſions) were held by him for the king's uſe and benefit, in the ſame manner the ſheriffs do at preſent, and they had

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the *third penny* arising therefrom for their fees, and the other two parts were paid into the king's exchequer, according to the laws of king Edward the Confessor.

When William the Norman conquerer had possessed the government of this kingdom, earls began to be *feudal*, *hereditary*, and *patrimonial*, and these, as appears from Domesday, were stiled simply earls, without any addition, as—Earl Hugh, Earl Alan, Earl Roger, &c. Afterwards, as appears by antient records, earls were created with an addition of the name of the place over which they had jurisdiction, or of the principal seat where they resided, and they had, as had been customary, the *third penny* of the county assigned them for their support. Soon after the conquest they began to be *created by charter*, but without any further ceremony than the delivery of it.[a] King John is the first who is mentioned to have used the girding of the sword, when they were said to be invested with this honour, *per cincturam*, *cingulo comitatus*; whereupon the sheriff had command to make livery unto them of the *tertium denarium de placitis comitatus*, *ut sit inde comes* (as were the usual words of the precept) i. e. the *third penny* of the pleas of the county, that thereupon he might be Earl thereof,[b] though Selden intimates, that Richard I. used this ceremony, and that it was then spoken of as a custom of that age, formerly enough known.[b] After which the earl had a certain sum only allowed him out of the profits of his county, as expressed in the patent, for his better support and dignity, and sometimes great possessions in lands were given to the same purpose.

In the following age there was an additional ceremony of putting on a cap with a golden circle, now changed into a coronet with rays and pearls, and a robe

[a] Chauncy's Hist Hert. p. 18. Camd. Brit. p. ccxxxvi. Seld. Tit. Hon. p. 606. Brady's Hist. of Eng. p. 81. Camd. Brit. p. cxxxvii. Dugd. Warw. p. 298; Seld. Ib. p. 614, 636, 638, 647, et seq. [b] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. Præf. p. 3. Selden, p. 677.

changed

of eſtate, which three, namely, the ſword and belt, the cap with a coronet, and the robe of eſtate, are at preſent carried by three ſeveral earls before him who is to be created, and then he is introduced to the king upon his throne, between two earls in their robes of eſtate, and himſelf in a ſurcoat, where kneeling down, the inſtrument of his creation is read to him: the king then puts on him the robe, hangs a ſword at his neck, puts a cap with a coronet upon his head, and delivers into his hand the inſtrument of his creation.* The government of counties, under the officiary earls, ceaſed in the reign of king Edward III. ſince which this dignity has been merely titular, and the ſheriff, who was before only a deputy, and ſubordinate to the earl, as the earl was to the king, is now become the king's immediate officer in his reſpective county.

The *military government* of antient Britain, as we learn from Cæſar, was in his time divided into ſeveral petty ſtates or governments. In this county, he ſays, there were four governors or chiefs, namely, Cingetorix, Carvilius, Taximagalus, and Segonax, whom, with his uſual pomp, he ſtiles kings. Theſe, at that time of common danger, were, as well as the reſt of the chiefs of the iſland, under the government and direction of Caſſivelaun, king of the Trinobantes, who had been choſen by the Britons their chief, or generaliſſimo, to conduct their affairs during their war with the Romans, under Cæſar, in his ſecond expedition hither, as has been already mentioned. Whether Kent was equally divided between theſe four *reguli*, or in what proportion their ſhares of it were to each other, is not known. The ſame kind of government ſeems to have continued in Britain to the time of the arrival of the Saxons here. Indeed, the monarchs choſen by the ſeveral chiefs as their generaliſſimo from time to time, from the frequency of danger and continuance of the wars, appear to have uſurped a much greater power

* Camd. Brit Præf. p. ccxxxviii.

over

over the reſt than in Cæſar's time. When Hengiſt, with the Saxons, arrived in Britain, in the year 449, Kent was under the government of one Gorongus, who, as well as the reſt of the princes, or chiefs of the iſland, were ſubordinate to Vortigern, who had been choſen monarch in Britain at a general aſſembly of them. Hengiſt the next year, as it is ſaid, obtained from king Vortigern, in recompence for his daughter Rowena, the gift of the county of Kent, which was tranſacted ſo privately between them, that Gorongus was diſpoſſeſſed before he could take any meaſures to oppoſe it. It appears that Hengiſt received the gift of this province from the king, on condition of his holding it ſubordinate to him as his deputy or chief governor of it, or, as Ethelwerd calls it, *primus conſul*. It was about five years after the firſt landing of Hengiſt, that the Britons, provoked at the inſolence of the Saxons, whoſe numbers, by the frequent arrival of large bodies of them from their own country, were greatly increaſed, began to make head againſt them, under the command of king Vortimer, whom they had choſen for their monarch, jointly with his father Vortigern. Several bloody battles and ſkirmiſhes were fought between them, with various ſucceſs; in one of them, which was fought in the year 457, at Crayford, in this county, the Britons were overthrown with great ſlaughter, inſomuch, that they were neceſſitated to abandon this county, and retire to London; upon which Hengiſt, throwing off all ſubordination to the Britiſh monarch, erected the province of Kent into a ſovereignty, this being the *firſt kingdom* eſtabliſhed by the Saxons in this iſland.

The hiſtory of the ſeveral kings, ſucceſſors of Hengiſt, who reigned in Kent during the Saxon heptarchy, has been already given. They too, like the Britons, choſe a chief or monarch, from among themſelves, whom they inveſted with a general power over the reſt, the common welfare of the *heptarchy*. Among theſe Ethelbert,

Ethelbert, who ſucceeded to the entire poſſeſſion of the kingdom of Kent in 564, was, on the death of Ceaulin, king of the Weſt Saxons, in 593, choſen, by the reſt of the Saxon princes, monarch in his room. In this manner Kent continued as a ſeparate kingdom, under the government and juriſdiction of its own kings, till the general diſſolution of the Saxon heptarchy, when the victorious Egbert, king of the Weſt Saxons, having, in the year 823, drove king Baldred out of it, united it to the reſt of his dominions, and aſſumed to himſelf the title of King of England, being the *firſt ſole monarch* of it. From this time Kent was governed, under him and the ſucceeding princes, as to its civil juriſdiction, by the Eolderman, or Earl, as had been mentioned before, who was frequently inveſted with the military power alſo. However this be, whoever poſſeſſed the chief military dignity of the county was ſtiled, in Saxon, *heretogas*, and in Latin, *dux*, or *general*;[a] which accounts for one and the ſame perſon being frequently, in our hiſtories, called by both theſe titles.

## DUKES AND EARLS OF KENT.[b]

ALCHER, EALCHER, or AUCHER, was the firſt EARL OF KENT that I have ſeen any mention of, who had alſo the title of DUKE, from his being at the ſame time intruſted with the military power of the county. He is eminent in hiſtory for his bravery ſhewn in a battle with the Danes, in the year 853. Theſe pirates, having landed with a conſidera-

[a] Ethelwerd, an. 597; Seld. Tit. of Hon. p. 334, 558.

[b] Dug. Bar. col. i. p. 12. Among Harl. MSS. is a book of Genealogies, and in it, *Linea comitum Kanciæ*, No. 465, 17.---*Comites Kantiæ* (Grey) No. 806, 30. Liſt of the Earls from Godwin to Hen. Grey, an. 1572.---No. 6124, 6.

ble

ble force that year in the iſle of Thanet, were attacked by earl Alcher, with the Kentiſhmen, and earl Huda, with thoſe of Surry, when an obſtinate battle was fought, in which the Engliſh at firſt gained ſome advantage. Great numbers were killed and drowned on both ſides, and the two Engliſh generals at length loſt their lives.

CEOLMUND was in the year 897, at which time king Alfred appointed ſeveral men of eminence guardians of the realm, in different parts of it, to withſtand the incurſions of the Danes, who greatly infeſted the coaſts, made *duke*, or *chief general, of this county* for that purpoſe, and Matthew of Weſtminſter ſtiles him *primicerius*, which ſignifies a chieftain, or perſon of eminent degree.[c]

GODWYNE was, in the year 1020, for his great bravery and ſervices to king Canute, created *Earl of Kent*.[d] He was of a noble extraction, and brother to the great Edric Streon, earl of Mercia, in the reign of king Ethelred II. In 1019, king Canute finding the whole kingdom in profound tranquility, reſolved on an expedition to Denmark; at the ſame time he embarked with him the flower of the Engliſh army, under the command of Godwyne, who, being a perſon of great courage and experience, ſoon ſignaliſed himſelf by his bravery in this war,[e] and, on his return the king, as a reward for his ſervice, created him *Earl of Kent*, *Suſſex*, and *Surry*, and gave him in marriage Thyra, his ſiſter, or, according to ſome, his daughter. Earl Godwyne, on the death of king Canute, in 1036, directed all things with ſuch an abſolute ſway, that he cauſed the late king's youngeſt ſon, Hardicanute, then in Denmark, to be proclaimed

[c] Flor. Worceſt. p. 597. Alford's Ann. 1020.
[d] See his Life. Biog. Brit. vol. iv. p. 2219, 2217. Vol. i. p. 59.
[e] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 12. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. 11. H. Hunt. lib. vi. M. Weſt. ann. 1024.

king

king of Weſſex (or of the Weſt Saxons) leaving the Mercians free to acknowledge Harold for their king; who, ſoon afterwards, finding means to gain the Earl over to his intereſt, the latter, ſuddenly, before any meaſures could be taken to obſtruct his deſign, on pretence that Hardicanute neglected to come to England, with the aſſiſtance of ſome other lords, procured Harold to be acknowledged king likewiſe by the inhabitants of Weſſex.[a] It ought to be obſerved here, that the country north of the Thames was called by the general name of *Mercia*, and was chiefly inhabited by thoſe of Daniſh extraction; on the contrary, *Weſſex*, or the country ſouth of the Thames, was moſtly inhabited by the Engliſh. Their forces being nearly equal, it is no wonder they were jealous of one another, each wiſhing to have that prince for ſovereign, whom they imagined would prove moſt favourable to themſelves. This equality of forces prevented the war, which this diviſion would moſt probably have otherwiſe occaſioned, and both parties continued in peace.[b] Harold, though poſſeſſed of the crown, thought himſelf by no means ſecure whilſt the two Saxons princes, ſons of king Ethelred, remained alive; with the advice of earl Godwyne therefore, he determined to get them in his power, and for this purpoſe forged a letter in the name of their mother, queen Emma, earneſtly inviting them to come to England. Accordingly Alfred, the eldeſt, who was then with his brother in Normandy, ſailed for England, with a few ſhips and a ſmall number of Normans, but they were no ſooner landed, than they fell into the hands of earl Godwyne, who went himſelf to meet the young prince and his attendants, and falling upon them took Alfred priſoner, and ſent him into the iſle of Ely, where, after his eyes where put out, he was ſhut up in the monaſtery there, and died ſome few days after. After

[a] Malmſb. and Huntingd. Ib. Brom. Col. 932. [b] Ingulph.

this

this, earl Godwyne continued in great favour with king Harold, and by his power entirely governed the affairs of the kingdom. He had raiſed himſelf to that heighth of fortune, that it would hardly admit of any addition. He was of a genius much ſuperior to the reſt of the nobility, and not only his merit, but his birth and alliances diſtinguiſhed him beyond the reſt. King Harold had raiſed him to the dignity of Duke of Weſſex, and had made him his high treaſurer, and the government of the counties of Oxford and Hereford were in the hands of his eldeſt ſon. In this exalted ſituation was Godwyne at the time of the king's death, without heirs, when the Earl joined with the great men of the nation, and unanimouſly made an offer of the crown to the deceaſed king's brother, Hardicanute, then with the queen his mother, at Bruges, in Flanders. Hardicanute, on his arrival at Sandwich, was received with great demonſtrations of joy, eſpecially by the Earl, who was one of the foremoſt to do him homage. The king began his reign with an uncommon act of revenge on the corps of Harold, for he ordered Godwyne, with ſome others, to dig it up, after which they cut off his head, and threw it with the body into the Thames. When the king had thus made uſe of Godwyne, in a ſervice which, from the ingratitude of it, made him more deteſtable in the eyes of every one, he ſhewed him continued marks of his diſpleaſure. Godwyne plainly ſaw this, and to appeaſe the king, he made him a preſent of a ſhip, gilt with gold, and tackling ſuitable, in which were fourſcore ſoldiers in gilt armour, each of them having two bracelets of gold on their arms, weighing ſixteen ounces, as alſo harbegions, or coats of defence, of gold, gilt hemlets, ſwords with gilt hilts, girt to their loins, and a Daniſh axe of gold hanging on their left ſhoulders, each bearing in his hand a target with gilt boſſes and nails, and in his right a lance, called in Engliſh a tegar. By this extraordinary

traordinary preſent he, in great meaſure, qualified the king's diſpleaſure, and to palliate the murder of young Alfred, he laid the fault wholly on king Harold, and affirmed, that he was compelled by him to do it.[a] How great ſoever the reſentments were which the king bore the Earl, he was ſuch an enemy to buſineſs, that he left the whole management of his affairs to him, and Godwyne knew ſo well how to improve theſe favourable junctures, that his power far exceeded that of all the other Engliſh lords. In this zenith of his good fortune Hardicanute died, in 1041, without iſſue, and Edward, ſon of king Ethelred II. and Emma of Normandy, was the only prince then in England that had any pretenſions to the crown. Edward ſoon found means to gain the Earl's friendſhip, ſo neceſſary for his purpoſe, who however, before he engaged in Edward's cauſe, ſtipulated the performance of certain conditions, one of which was, that the young prince ſhould marry his daughter Editha. The prince was neceſſitated to comply with theſe terms, to which he bound himſelf by oath, notwithſtanding the inward reluctance he muſt have to marry the daughter of a man, whom he could but look on as the murderer of his brother Alfred. As ſoon as Godwyne had received from Edward the aſſurances he demanded, he convened a general aſſembly, where, by his management, that prince was acknowledged and proclaimed king.[b] King Edward had not ability ſufficient to govern ſo large a kingdom, which gave the nobles an opportunity of aſſuming almoſt a ſovereign power. Earl Godwyne eſpecially uſurped, by

[a] Flor. Worceſt. p. 623. S. Dunelm, Col. 180. Bromton, Col. 936. W. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. xii. Hoveden, p. 438. M. Weſtm. an. 1036.

[b] The hiſtorians differ much in their accounts of this proceeding of earl Godwyne, of which the reader may ſee farther in Ingulp. p. 295. W. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. xiii. S. Dunelm. Col. 179. Bromton, Col. 934 et ſeq. H. Hunt. lib. vi.

degrees,

degrees, ſo great an authority, that he had almoſt the ſame deference paid him as the king himſelf. How fair ſoever the king carried it towards Godwyne, he ſecretly hated him and his whole family, and deferred his marriage with Editha as long as he could. But as he ſtood in fear of the Earl, he durſt not break his word with him, and, therefore, after two years, on various pretences, he eſpouſed her according to his promiſe. But his averſion was ſo great, that he never conſummated the marriage, and the queen, who was a perſon of ſtrict virtue, and endowed with a peculiar greatneſs of ſoul, never made the leaſt complaint of this neglect, but diverted her thoughts with acts of piety and devotion. Ingulphus tells us, ſhe was moſt beautiful, chaſte, and humble, and exceedingly learned, and further ſays, ſhe had nothing of her father in her, whence this verſe:

"Sicut ſpina roſam genuit Godwynus Edytham."

The king however did not venture to divorce her, leaſt the Earl, by whoſe intereſt he had mounted the throne, might ſtill have it in his power to depoſe him. He concealed his averſion, and even continued to heap favours on him, in hopes of meeting with a proper opportunity of ſhewing his reſentment. Godwyne wiſely improved this appearance of the king's favour, and became every day more formidable by the great number of friends he acquired. About this time Swane, the earl's eldeſt ſon, in the year 1047, having deflowered an abbeſs, fled to Denmark, and finding no hopes of obtaining a pardon, made open war upon the Engliſh. Soon after which he committed a brutal action, which ſeemed to put his reconciliation at a ſtill greater diſtance, for imagining that earl Beorn (who had interceded with the king for him, and was come to acquaint him with the terms of his pardon) was come to betray him, he ſlew him with his own

hand, and threw his body into the ſea.[a] Notwithſtanding which the king ſoon after, fearing, if he continued inflexible, Godwyne would revenge it, granted Swane his pardon. In 1051 an accident happened, which brought Godwyne to the brink of deſtruction, and gave the king an opportunity of diſcovering his enmity to him. Euſtace, earl of Boulonge (who had married Goda, the king's ſiſter) being come to viſit king Edward, ſome of his attendants, who were ſent before to provide lodgings at Dover, inſiſted upon having them in a houſe there, againſt the will of the owner, whereupon a quarrel aroſe, and a townſman was ſlain, which ſo exaſperated the inhabitants, that they immediately fell upon the Earl's retinue, killing ſeveral, and wounding many more, earl Euſtace himſelf, who had entered the town in the midſt of the tumult, hardly eſcaping their fury. The Earl, who was then governor of Dover-caſtle,[b] enraged at this affront; haſtened with his complaint to the king, then at Glouceſter, who ſent for Godwyne, and commanded him to march with his power, and vindicate this injury done to the earl of Boulonge in his government. But he, excuſing the fact, and adding, in a haughty tone, ſome ſevere reflections on the inſults of foreigners, ſo highly provoked the king, that after his departure, at the perſuaſion of Robert, archbiſhop of Canterbury, and the reſt of the Normans about him, the king determined to puniſh him for his inſolence. But the Earl having had notice of it, immediately put himſelf in a condition to reſiſt the king and his enemies, and under colour of reſtraining the incurſions of the Welſh, who were then in arms in Herefordſhire, he raiſed ſome forces out of Kent, Suthſex, and Weſſex, as his eldeſt ſon Swane did thoſe of his earldom, viz. Oxford, Glouceſter,

[a] W. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. 13. H. Hunt. lib. vi. Bromton, Col. 939. S. Dunelm, Col. 183. Higden, p. 278.

[b] MSS. Bib. Cott. Veſpaſ. A. 5.

Hereford,

Hereford, Somerſet, and Berks; and Harold, his other ſon, thoſe of his, viz. Eſſex, Eaſt-Anglia, Cambridgeſhire, and Huntingdonſhire; to oppoſe which the king, with the aſſiſtance of his nobles, raiſed a large army out of Mercia and Northumbria.[e] After this Godwyne marched into Glouceſterſhire, and ſent meſſengers to the king, requiring him to deliver up earl Euſtace and all his followers (then in Dover caſtle for their ſecurity) threatening, in caſe of refuſal, to declare open war againſt him. But the Earl, diſcerning that the king's army was not inferior to his, ſubmitted to end the quarrel by a treaty. Upon which the king required him to come to him, with only Harold his ſon, and twelve of his retinue unarmed, which the Earl excuſed himſelf from for various reaſons. In the mean time, the king obſerving Godwyne's army deſerted in great numbers, cauſed open proclamation to be made, that the earl ſhould appear at court, as required, or depart the realm within five days, upon which he ſaw himſelf on a ſudden abandoned by his principal adherents, and was compelled to fly in the night to Thorney iſland, with his wife and three of his ſons, Swane, Toſti, and Gyrth, and ſoon after into Flanders, to earl Baldwin, whoſe daughter Judith, Toſti had married; his other two ſons, Harold and Leofwyne, fled to Briſtol, and from thence to Ireland. The king having now no reaſon to fear any thing from Godwyne or his family, ſhut up the queen in the nunnery of Wharwel, with a deſign never to take her again, and to deprive the Earl and his ſons of all hopes of returning, the king diſpoſed of all their poſts, the chief whereof were conferred on Alfgar, ſon of Leofric. In the mean time Godwyne took meaſures to reinſtate himſelf by force of arms, and having made every hoſtile preparation,

[e] Flor. Worc. p. 627. S. Dun. Col. 184. Brom. Col. 942. W. Malmſb. lib. ii. c. xiii. R. Hoved. p. 441. W. Weſtm. an. 1051.

he returned to England, his ſons, Harold and Leofwyne, joining him from Ireland, they entered together the mouth of the Severn, and made great ſpoil in thoſe parts. From thence the Earl ſailed to the Kentiſh coaſt, and ſeized the veſſels, and levied all the power he could in this county and the neighbouring parts, but being purſued by the royal navy, then at Sandwich, he retired to the iſle of Wight. After which he ſailed up the Thames, and entering Southwark, by fair promiſes, induced many of the Londoners to join him, and finding no reſiſtance at the bridge, he got higher up with his boats. At the return of the tide, the Earl ſteered towards the north part of the river, as though he intended to ſurround the king's fleet, which lay on that ſide; king Edward had a numerous body of foot, as well as Godwyne, yet both ſides, conſiſting entirely of Engliſh, pauſed from the attack, as unwilling to embrue their hands in the blood of their countrymen. Upon which the nobles inſtantly interpoſed, and Godwyne was perſuaded to ſue for pardon, and five perſons being choſen on each ſide, they ſettled all differences, the armies were diſbanded, and Earl Godwyne, his wife, and all his ſons, except Swane, were reſtored to their honours and eſtates, and the king honourably received the queen his wife again. The ſame year (1052) Swane, Godwyne's ſon, died on a pilgrimage, which he had undertaken to Jeruſalem. The late diſgrace of earl Godwyne, contrary to the expectation of his enemies, tended only to render him more powerful and formidable than ever. The height of it would probably have proved of dangerous conſequence, had not death freed the king from ſo formidable a ſubject. The Earl's death[a] was attended with extraordi-

[a] The ſtory of his ſingular death is related by Ingulp. p. 898. H. Hunt. lib. vi. Dec. Script. Col. 944. H. Knighton, Col. 2333. R. Higden, p. 280. M. Weſtm. an. 1054.

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nary circumſtances, if we believe the Norman monks, who were his enemies; but according to the beſt authorities, earl Godwyne was taken ſpeechleſs as he ſat at table with the king, then celebrating the feaſt of Eaſter at Wincheſter, and being carried into the king's chamber by his ſons, he lay there in a languiſhing condition four days, and died on the 5th, being the 15th of April, 1053, and was buried in the old monaſtery at Wincheſter. His poſſeſſions were many and great; an account of ſome of them may be gathered from the general ſurvey of Domeſday, in which are mentioned, as once belonging to him, fourteen lordſhips in Herefordſhire, one in Kent, forty-four in Suſſex, one in Surry, and eleven in Hampſhire. He had two wives, the firſt Thyra, Canute's ſiſter, or, according to ſome, his daughter, by whom he had only one ſon, who, careleſsly riding a horſe into the river Thames, was there drowned. His ſecond wife was Gytha, ſiſter to Swayne, king of Denmark, by whom he had ſeven ſons, of whom authors by no means agree as to their ſeniority, almoſt every one placing them in a different ſucceſſion; however, I ſhall place them as follows, viz. Swane, who was earl of the counties of Oxford, Glouceſter, Hereford, Somerſet, and Berks, and died abroad, on a pilgrimage to Jeruſalem. Harold, the ſecond ſon, was the firſt earl of the Eaſt Saxons, Eaſt Angles, and the counties of Huntingdon and Cambridge, and on the death of his father, of the Weſt Saxons and of Kent. Vulnoth, the third ſon, with Hacon (the ſon of Swane) his uncle, was ſent into Normandy, as an hoſtage, upon his father's reſtoration from baniſhment, where he continued during the whole reign of king Edward; after the Norman conqueſt he was brought back into England, and kept priſoner at Saliſbury till his death. Toſtan, the fourth ſon, married Judith, daughter of Baldwin, earl of Flanders, by whom he left no iſſue. Upon the death of Siward, earl of

Northumberland, he had that earldom beſtowed upon him, after which his turbulent and haughty ſpirit continually involved him in a ſeries of miſchievous practices, and the perpetrating of the moſt ſhocking barbarities. He was ſlain with the king of Norway, after a ſharp and bloody conflict, fought at Stanford-bridge, in Yorkſhire, againſt king Harold his brother.[a] Gyrth, the fifth ſon, was ſlain with his brother Harold, in the battle fought with William the Conqueror, at his landing at Haſtings. It appears he was an earl, though of what county is not known; and he is ſaid to have been a young man of knowledge and virtue, far above his years. The ſixth, Leoſwyne, was ſlain in battle with his brothers at Haſtings, at the time above-mentioned. He was an earl, but of what county is not mentioned. By the record of Domeſday he was poſſeſſed, in the time of king Edward, of nine lordſhips in Kent, and fourteen in other counties.[b] Elfgare, the ſeventh ſon, was a monk at Rheims, in France. Earl Godwyne's daughter, by his ſecond wife, was Edytha, who became wife of king Edward the Confeſſor, whoſe ſufferings and character have been already related. She died after the conqueſt, in 1074, and was buried in Weſtminſter-abbey.[c]

The common received ſtory of the *Godwyne ſands*, oppoſite to the town of Deal, and ſuppoſed to be ſo called from their having been once the eſtate of this Earl, and, as a judgment for his crimes, at once ſwallowed up by the ſea, has been long exploded, as is that of their once being an iſland, called Lomea. The moſt probable opinion of our beſt antiquaries being, that inſtead of theſe ſands having been occaſioned by

[a] See an Account of Toſtan, Biog. Brit. vol. iv. p. 222.

[b] Floren. Worc. p. 628. S. Dunelm. Col. 187. R. Hoveden, p. 443. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 5 et ſeq. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. 13. R. Higden, p. 281. H. Knighton, Col. 2333. Brom. Col. 934.

[c] Strype's Stow's Survey, book vi. p. 14.

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an inundation of the ſea, they were rather cauſed by the ſea's leaving them, at the time of that terrible inundation in the reign of king William Rufus, or king Henry I.'s reign, which drowned ſo great a part of Flanders and the Low Countries, by which this part of the channel, which had before a ſufficient depth of water at all times to cover it, the channel being as navigable there as elſewhere, became a large tract of ſand, dry at low water, and but barely covered with the waves at other times, and as ſuch of the moſt dangerous conſequence to mariners, as the continual ſhipwrecks on it ſufficiently prove. This deſertion of the ſea in theſe parts might have been further increaſed by following inundations in other places, eſpecially that upon the parts of Zealand, which conſiſting antiently of fifteen iſlands, eight of them were ſwallowed up in king Henry II.'s time.[d]

HAROLD, ſecond ſon of earl Godwyne, though his own earldoms were given away by the king, ſucceeded his father as Duke of Weſſex, and Earl of Kent, and Governor of Dover-caſtle. Dugdale takes no notice of his having been earl of Kent, and others make a doubt of it, however, the generality of writers affirm him to have been ſo.[e] He was of a temper more courteous and pliable than his father, carrying himſelf with much leſs pride, and with a more reſpectful and ſubmiſſive behaviour to the king. This did not remove the king's inveterate hatred to his family; perhaps, indeed, Edward had not ſo great an averſion to him as he had to his father, but he feared him as much, and perhaps very juſtly. Harold had as great parts and abilities as Godwyne, and a much greater principle of honour; he was very liberal, which joined to a civil and obliging behaviour, firmly attached both the nobles and people to his intereſt. And the

[d] Somn. Rom. Ports, p. 26. Lamb. Peremb. p. 105.
[e] Seld. Titles of Honour, p. 618.

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ſame reaſons which induced the king to conceal his real ſentiments towards the father, now obliged him to do the ſame towards the ſon, for he was become too great a favourite with the nation to hazard a rupture with him. Though Harold had married the daughter of Alfgar, duke of Mercia, that nobleman, envying his greatneſs, behaved with great coolneſs towards him. Alfgar being of a reſtleſs ſpirit, entered into a conſpiracy with Griffin, prince of Wales, for which he was accuſed of treaſon, and condemned to baniſhment, upon which he retired into Wales to that prince, with whom, ſoon after, making an inroad into Herefordſhire, they were met by earl Harold, who had levied an army in his governments, and putting them to the rout, compelled them to retire into Wales.[a] After this Harold, by his intereſt, having obtained Alfgar's pardon, the duke was reſtored to his honours and eſtate. Harold acquired great reputation by this expedition, and his generoſity to Alfgar, and it began to be the public diſcourſe, that as the king had no heirs, none was more worthy to ſucceed him. This very ſenſibly touched king Edward, who all along had waited for an occaſion to ruin him. Whatever thoughts he might have had before, of leaving the crown to the duke of Normandy, he now found it would be impoſſible for a foreign prince to ſucceed againſt an Engliſh earl of ſuch power and credit, and ſo entirely beloved by the people. This moſt probably obliged him to turn his thoughts towards his nephew, Edward, ſon of Edmund Ironſide, then in Hungary; accordingly he diſpatched Aldred, biſhop of Worceſter, to fetch him home. The arrival of this prince, ſon of a king of England, whoſe memory was dear to the na-

[a] MSS. Bibl. Cott. Veſp. A. 5, 22. Flor. Worc. p. 628. Ingulp. p. 898. S. Dunelm, Col. 187. Brom. Col. 945. H. Hunt. lib. vi. Hov. p. 443. M. Weſt. an. 1055 et ſeq. W. Malmſ. lib. ii. c. 13.

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tion, could not but be exceedingly acceptable to the Engliſh, and he was henceforward conſidered by them as the king's preſumptive heir, their eſteem for Harold giving place to their affection for a deſcendant of the antient royal family of England, and he would have undoubtedly ſucceeded his uncle, had not his death put an end to all their hopes, ſoon after his arrival in England. He left one ſon, Edgar, ſurnamed Atheling. Earl Harold's ambition and hopes were revived by prince Edward's death; his ſon, indeed, inherited all his rights, but he was then ſo young, that it was no hard matter to ſupplant him, and he might poſſibly die before the king. Accordingly Harold reſolved to improve the preſent favourable conjuncture, but before he openly diſcovered his deſigns, he thought it requiſite to try to get out of the hands of the duke of Normandy, Vulnoth, his brother, and Hacune his nephew, whom Godwyne, his father, had given as hoſtages to the king. Though the Earl demanded them very urgently, yet the king conſtantly replied, that as they were not in his power, but in the duke of Normandy's, his application muſt be made to him. At laſt the Earl, finding he ſhould never obtain his deſire, requeſted leave to go and ſolicit the Duke for their deliverance, and ſoon afterwards embarked for Roan; but a violent tempeſt ariſing, he was drove towards Picardy, and compelled to put into one of the ports of the earl of Ponthieu, Eadmer, S. Dunelm, Bromton, H. Huntingdon, Hoveden, and ſome others agree in the above circumſtances of it. William of Malmſbury, Matthew of Weſtminſter, and others ſay, that Harold being at his manor of Boſenham in Suſſex, went out in a fiſhing boat for his diverſion, but ſailing further than he was aware of, a tempeſt aroſe and drove him as above, where he was immediately ſeiſed, and it would have been difficult for him to have regained his liberty, had not the duke of Normandy demanded the priſoner

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of the earl of Ponthieu, who not daring to diſpute this matter, Harold was ſet at liberty, and immediately went on to Roan, where he was honourably entertained. After ſome days the Duke told him, that king Edward, whilſt at his court, had promiſed if ever he came to the crown of England, he would ſettle the inheritance of it on him; and he added, that if he, Harold, would give him his aſſiſtance in this matter, and deliver to him the caſtle of Dover, with the well of water in it, and promiſe to ſend his ſiſter over to be married to one of the Duke's nobles, and himſelf to marry the Duke's daughter, he would in recompence reſtore his nephew Hacun, and when he became to be king of England, he ſhould have his brother Vulnoth ſafely delivered up to him, and every thing granted to him that he could in reaſon aſk or deſire. Harold, perceiving he had but one courſe to take to get out of the Duke's power, readily conſented to whatever was deſired, upon which the Duke bound him by oath to the performance of his promiſes, and eſpecially, that he would never attempt the throne of England; after which he diſmiſſed Harold, loaded with preſents, who quickly returned to England, with his nephew Hacune. Harold had no ſooner got beyond the reach of the Duke's power, than looking on the oath he had made as extorted from him, he reſolved to take every meaſure to fruſtrate his deſigns, and henceforward uſed all his diligence to ſecure in his intereſt all the great lords of the kingdom, that by thus ſtrengthening his party, he might put it out of the power of the king or the duke to lay any obſtacles in his way. After this, in the year 1063, the Welſh renewing their incurſions under the conduct of Griffin their king, Harold and his brother Toſton, earl of Northumberland, joined their forces to repulſe them. They were ſo fortunate in this expedition, that they compelled them to dethrone Griffin, and become tributary to England; nay, on the

the renewing of the war, Harold marched towards their frontiers, and ſtruck ſuch a terror into the Welſh, that they ſent him the head of their king. Soon after this Harold's brother Toſtan, earl of Northumberland, treated the Northumbrians with ſuch ſeverity, that not able to bear his oppreſſions any longer, they took up arms againſt him, and expelled him from the province, upon which Harold was ordered to chaſtiſe them, and reſtore his brother. On his approach the Northumbrians ſent meſſengers to inform him, that they had no deſign of withdrawing their obedience from the king, but only to free themſelves from the tyrannical power of an unjuſt and cruel governor, to whom they were reſolved never to ſubmit again, and promiſing farther, provided the king would ſet over them one who would govern them according to the laws and cuſtoms of their country, an unſhaken fidelity for the future. Harold finding this affair related chiefly to Toſton's ill conduct, rather than to any diſaffection to the king, ſent an impartial account of it to the court, and at the ſame time interceded for the Northumbrians, and not only obtained their pardon, but procured them Morkard, ſon of Alfgar, duke of Mercia, for their governor.[a] Whilſt Harold was endeavouring to ſecure the crown, Edward did not ſeem to trouble himſelf about the ſucceſſion, which he had ſo exceedingly perplexed by his engagement with the duke of Normandy, but employed his whole attention on religious matters, and the ſtructure of the church and monaſtery, which he had begun at Weſtminſter, at the dedication of which, not long after, he was ſeized with a ſudden illneſs, which proved fatal to him. Harold was at this time

[a] Sim. Dunelm. Col. 196. Bromton, Col. 947. Eadm. p. 5. W. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. 13. R. Hoveden, p. 446. M. Paris, p. 1. Flor. Worceſt. p. 632. Ingulphus, p. 899. H. Hunt. lib. vi. M. Weſtm. an. 1064. H. Knighton, Col. 2337. R. Higden, p. 283.

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by no means inattentive to his own intereſt: he found means, according to Florence of Worceſter, and others of our Engliſh hiſtorians, to induce the king to declare him his ſucceſſor. Thoſe who favoured the duke of Normandy's title aſſert, Edward bequeathed the kingdom by will to the duke; and others write, that he recommended to the nobles, then aſſembled in a body, to chooſe the perſon they thought moſt worthy to rule over them. He died ſoon after, on January the 3d, 1066. Earl Harold's ſucceeding to the crown is thus variouſly related by our hiſtorians, as they wiſhed to eſpouſe the cauſe of one or other of the competitors to it, and they differ as much in the manner of his obtaining it after king Edward's death. Several affirm, he was elected with one common voice, freely by the *wittenagemot* then aſſembled, and crowned the day after the election by the archbiſhop of York. Others ſay, he uſurped the crown, by compelling the great council to elect him, and there are ſome who look on his election as a fiction, affirming, that Harold, without troubling himſelf about the conſent of the nobles or people, extorted fealty from them, and ſet the crown upon his own head without farther ceremony. After Harold was crowned, there was not a perſon in the kingdom but what owned him for ſovereign, and paid him obedience; but though he found no oppoſition at home, it was otherwiſe abroad, for, beſides the duke of Normandy, who, enraged at Harold's breach of faith, was ſecretly preparing to claim the crown by force of arms, earl Toſton was likewiſe making preparations to diſturb him in the poſſeſſion of his new dignity. Accordingly, having got together ſome ſhips, he infeſted the Engliſh coaſts, plundered the iſle of Wight, and afterwards entering the Humber, made a deſcent on Yorkſhire, and ravaged the country. After which he entered into a treaty with Harold Harfager, king of Norway, and with him invaded England with a large fleet,

fleet, with deſign to conquer his brother Harold, who met them at Stanford-bridge, upon the river Derwent, in Yorkſhire, and after a ſharp conteſt, in which both Toſtan and the king of Norway were ſlain, obtained a complete victory.[a] In the mean time the duke of Normandy was taking every meaſure to wreſt a crown from Harold which he had been ſo long in expectation of, and to which he thought he had a much ſuperior right. After having long waited for a wind at Saint Valery, he ſet ſail from thence with his forces, and landed at Pevenſey, near Haſtings, in Suſſex. Harold, on receiving the news of the deſcent of the Normans, by haſty marches came up to London, and having drawn all his forces together, advanced towards the Normans, and coming up with them near Haſtings, a moſt bloody battle was fought between them, on Saturday, October 14, 1066,[b] a day memorable for one of the greateſt events that ever happened to this kingdom. Without entering into the particular circumſtances of this battle, ſo fully deſcribed by all our hiſtorians, I ſhall content myſelf with obſerving, that in this engagement the Kentiſhmen were in the front of the Engliſh army, a privilege they had long enjoyed, and that the conflict continued, with doubtful ſucceſs, from ſix in the morning till night parted the two armies, and that the next morning, in a furious attack made by the Normans, Harold was ſlain, by an arrow ſhot through his brains, on which his troops betook themſelves to flight, and the Normans gained a complete victory. Thus fell Harold, courageouſly fighting in defence not only of his own, but of his country's cauſe, againſt the am-

[a] Flor. Worceſt. p. 433. S. Dunelm. Col. 193. and H. Knighton, Col. 2339. R. Hoveden, p. 447. R. de Diceto, p. 479. W. Malmſb. lib. ii. cap. 13. H. Hunt. lib. vi. M. Paris, p. 2. W. Weſtm. an. 1066. Ingulp. p. 900. Bromton, Col. 958.

[b] Bromton, H. Hunt. M. Paris, Knighton, and ſome others. Flor. Worceſt. and S. Dunelm ſay, on October 22d.

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bition of the duke of Normandy. With him were ſlain his two brothers, Gyrth and Leofwine. His death put an end to the empire of the Anglo-Saxons in England, which had continued upwards of ſix hundred years, from the time of Hengiſt's firſt taking the title of King of Kent. Harold's body, ſo covered with wounds that it was hard to be known, was ſent by duke William to his mother, without any ranſom, though ſhe is ſaid to have offered him for it its weight in gold: ſhe buried it at Waltham-abbey, in Eſſex, a monaſtery which the king himſelf had founded.—Harold was twice married: by his firſt wife, whoſe name is unknown, he had three ſons, Godwyne, Edmund, and Ulfe, the two former of whom, in the ſecond year of the Conqueror's reign, landing with ſome forces out of Ireland, made great ſpoil in the weſtern parts of England, and returned there again ſafely with their booty. Ulfe being afterwards priſoner in Normandy with Duncan, ſon of Malcome, king of Scots, was with him ſet at liberty, and knighted by Robert, eldeſt ſon of the Conqueror, when he returned thither on his father's death.[a] He had alſo two daughters, of whom Gunild, the eldeſt, falling blind, paſſed her days in a nunnery, and the youngeſt, whoſe Chriſtian name is not known, married Waldemar, king of Ruſſia, by whom ſhe had a daughter, who was mother to Waldemar, king of Denmark, from whom the Daniſh kings, for many ages after proceeded. His ſecond wife was Aldith, by ſome called Algytha, daughter of Alfgar, duke of Mercia, and widow of Griffin, prince of Wales.—The lands which earl Harold poſſeſſed in king Edward the Confeſſor's time were very great, in different counties,

[a] W. Malmſb. lib. iii. cap. 1. H. Hunt. lib. vi. M. Weſtm. an. 1066. Flor. Worceſt. p. 633. S. Dunelm, Col. 195. and Bromton, Col. 960. Knighton, Col. 2343. M. Paris, p. 3. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 21.

as appears by the Conqueror's ſurvey. He had the following lordſhips: in—

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yorkſhire..... | 4 | Kent..... | 2 | Surry..... | 8 |
| Wiltſhire .... | 12 | Suſſex ..... | 9 | Hampſhire ... | 8 |
| Dorſetſhire... | 4 | Berkſhire ..... | 5 | Staffordſhire.. | 1 |
| Somerſetſhire | 11 | Hertfordſhire. | 10 | Oxfordſhire... | 3 |
| Cornwall..... | 3 | Buckinghamſh. | 3 | Cambridgeſh. | 1 |
| Devonſhire.. | 17 | Gloceſterſhire. | 4 | Norfolk ..... | 2 |
| Shropſhire.... | 1 | Worceſterſh... | 1 | Leiceſterſhire | 3 |
| Eſſex..... | 15 | Herefordſhire. | 40 | Lincolnſhire.. | 8 |

In all one hundred and ſeventy-five lordſhips.

After the duke of Normandy had, by his ſignal victory at Haſtings, ſubjected this realm to his abſolute power, it cannot be doubted, but he would uſe every means for the eſtabliſhing himſelf in his future dominion. To this end he advanced thoſe to the chiefeſt truſt and command, who had hazarded their lives with him in this expedition; but among theſe, his neareſt relations were more eſpecially preferred to the moſt important poſts both of honour and profit.

ODO, BISHOP OF BAYEUX, in Normandy, and his half-brother, had attended him in his expedition hither, and though an eccleſiaſtic, in conſideration of his kindred to him, was raiſed to the Earldom of Kent, being the firſt place of power and truſt, which after the victory at Haſtings king William conferred upon any one. At the ſame time he had the caſtle of Dover (called, from its ſtrength and importance, *Clavis et repagulum totius regni*, i. e. the lock and key of the whole kingdom) and this whole county committed to his charge; ſoon after which he was joined with William Fitz Oſberne, commander in the Conqueror's army, in the generalſhip or chief command of all the military forces of the whole realm.[a] Odo was likewiſe a count palatine, which title was given to him,

[a] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 20.

not as he was earl of Kent, or a local earl (for this earldom was not palatine) but as he had a perſonal office in the court under the king, or a general power of lieutenancy, created in the court, but extended through the kingdom, in conſequence of which he gave laws as king, having power over all other earls and great men of the land.[a] He was alſo one of the barons of the king's exchequer, and *Juſticiarius Angliæ*, that is, the principal perſon under the king for adminiſtering of juſtice throughout the whole nation, which high and eminent office after him continued till towards the latter end of king Henry III.'s reign, Odo at that time being reputed the wiſeſt man in England. In Lent, after the coronation, the king going into Normandy, left Odo, together with William Fitz Oſberne, guardians of the kingdom in his abſence, with directions to build caſtles throughout the land, wherever they thought fit. Upon this Odo ſeated himſelf in Kent, and became ſo powerful, that no man durſt oppoſe him; he even ſeized ſeveral lordſhips belonging to the archbiſhop of Canterbury, which being made known to Lanfranc, when he was advanced to that ſee, in the fifth year of that reign, he immediately made his complaint to the king, who commanded, that the whole county of Kent, eſpecially thoſe who had moſt knowledge of the antient uſages and cuſtoms there ſhould, without delay, aſſemble and do right therein. Meeting therefore on Pinenden-heath, Geffrey, biſhop of Conſtance, ſat in the king's ſtead as chief judge, and, after much diſpute, paſſed ſentence in favour of the archbiſhop, that he ſhould enjoy the lands belonging to his church, as freely as the king himſelf did his own demeſne lands.[b] But the extraordinary power and wealth which Odo

[a] Seld. Tit. of Hon. p. 686.

[b] Mad. Excheq. p. 743. Dugd. Orig. p. 20. Dugd. Bar. vol. I. p. 23. See more of this meeting under Boxley.

had

had amaſſed by pillaging the Engliſh, made him ſo forgetful of himſelf, that he grew both violent, oppreſſive, and ambitious. Nay, he became ſo highly elated, that he determined to employ his money in purchaſing the papacy. To that end he bought a ſtately palace at Rome, and filled it with coſtly furniture, where he deſigned to reſide, and to convey all his treaſures thither, that he might be ready, on the pope's death, to put his deſign in execution.[c] In the mean time, as he wiſhed to conceal his intentions, he took the opportunity of the king his brother's abſence in Normandy to begin his journey to Rome, and having allured, by the promiſe of large gifts, Hugh earl of Cheſter, and a great band of choice ſoldiers, to follow him into Italy, he went, accompanied by them, to the iſle of Wight, where his ſhips lay ready for him, but contrary winds preventing his embarking ſo ſoon as he expected, he was forced to remain ſome time there. This broke all his meaſures; for the king, having intelligence of his deſign, came over haſtily and ſurprized him, juſt as he was ſetting ſail, and ordered him to be ſeized immediately, but as he was a biſhop no one dared to touch him; whereupon the king himſelf laid hands on him, Odo at the ſame time crying out, that he was a clerk, and as ſuch could not be ſentenced by any but the pope; to which the king replied, that he neither ſentenced any clerk, or biſhop, but his own earl, whom he had made viceregerent in his kingdom; to which method the king was adviſed by archbiſhop Lanfranc, which Odo never forgave, but ever afterwards bore an implacable hatred to him, and the king, reſolving that he ſhould give an account of that truſt, commanded him to be carried into Normandy, where he was kept a priſoner, in the caſtle of Roan, the remaining four years of the Conqueror's reign. Odo, quickly after his ſeizure,

[c] Alford's Annals, 1077.

being convicted of numberleſs extortions, his effects and lands were all confiſcated to the king's uſe.[a] Whilſt the king was in his laſt ſickneſs, among other priſoners of ſtate, he refuſed to releaſe his brother Odo,[b] however, on William Rufus's acceſſion to the throne, anno 1087, he was ſet at liberty, and coming over to England, was confirmed in the poſſeſſion of his earldom of Kent, and was much favoured by the King, but when Odo found he had not the whole ſway and diſpoſal of every thing, as formerly, he fell off from his allegiance, and ſeduced many others to do the ſame; inciting them to advance Robert Curthoſe, (eldeſt ſon of the king, to whom he had left the dukedom of Normandy,) to the throne of England, and in order thereto, he began an inſurrection in Kent, where he burnt ſeveral towns belonging to the king and archbiſhop Lanfranc, to which latter he bore an implacable hatred, attributing all the misfortunes which had befallen him in the former reign to his advice and counſel. Odo carried all his plunder to Rocheſter, of which he had the cuſtody, from whence he marched to his caſtle of Pevenſey, in Suſſex, where he was in hopes he might hold out a ſiege till the duke of Normandy could come to his relief; but at the end of ſix weeks he was forced, for want of food, to ſurrender it up to the king, and to promiſe, on oath, to quit the realm, and never to return to it until the king ſhould command him. Beſides, he bound himſelf to deliver up, before his departure, the caſtle of Rocheſter, where many gallant men, and the chief of the Norman lords, were ſhut up under the command of Euſtace, earl of Boulogne. For this purpoſe he was conducted to the gates of Rocheſter, where he feigned to perſuade the governor to deliver up the city; but Euſtace, gueſſing at his meaning, detained him, and the ſoldiers who conducted him,

[a] Alford's Annals, 1083. [b] Ibid. 1087.

priſoners.

priſoners. Upon this the king immediately marched with his army to Rocheſter, and beſieged the city ſo vigorouſly, that thoſe in it were at laſt compelled to ſurrender themſelves, and Odo loſing all his honours, for ever abjured the kingdom, and went into Normandy, where he was received by duke Robert, and had the whole care of that province committed to him.[c] The character given in general of Odo, by hiſtorians is very great; Ordericus Vitalis ſums it up as follows: he was eloquent and magnanimous, courtly and courageous; he honoured religious men much, and ſtoutly defended his clergy, as well with his tongue as his ſword. In his youth, in regard to his kindred, he was advanced to the biſhopric of Bayeux, in which he ſat more than fifty years. The church of our Lady at Bayeux he built from the ground, and furniſhed it with coſtly veſtments, and different ornaments of gold and ſilver. In the church of Saint Vigor (formerly biſhop of Bayeux) which is ſituate near the wall of the city, he placed monks, and made it a cell to the abbey of Dijon. He ſent young ſcholars to Liege, and other cities, where he knew the ſtudy of philoſophy flouriſhed, and gave them large exhibitions for their ſupport in learning. Of thoſe educated by him were Thomas, archbiſhop of York, and Sampſon his brother, biſhop of Worceſter; William de Ros, abbot of Fiſchamp, in Normandy; Thurſton, abbot of Glaſtonbury, and many others. Thus, notwithſtanding he was much entangled with worldly cares, he did many laudable things, beſtowing his wealth, however indirectly gotten, on the church and poor. To conclude the life of this great man; being at length tired of the world, he undertook a journey to Rome with duke Robert his nephew, but died at Palermo, in Sicily, in the year 1096, and was buried in the church of our Lady there. He left a na-

[c] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 23. Rapin, p. 183. Alf. Ann. 1088.

tural ſon, named John, who was afterwards, for his eloquence and ingenuity, of great eſteem in the court of king Henry I. The lands and poſſeſſions which Odo had in England were wonderfully great, all which were given him by the bounty of king William, his brother. In Kent he had no leſs than one hundred and eighty-four lordſhips, or the greateſt part of them, and in other counties two hundred and fifty-five more. The *ſeal of Odo* is not only extremely rare, but very ſingular, in reſpect to the figures repreſented thereon. On the one ſide of it he appears as an earl mounted on his war horſe, clad in armour, and holding a ſword in his right hand; but on the reverſe, he appears in his character of a biſhop, dreſſed in his pontifical habit, and as pronouncing the benediction. He is ſaid to have borne for his coat armour, *Gules a lion rampant argent, ſurmounted by a biſhop's crozier in bend ſiniſter or.*[a] The monks of Saint Andrew's priory in Rocheſter uſed to celebrate his anniverſary, by ſaying maſs at the leſſer altar, and diſplaying three flags on the leſſer tower.[b]

WILLIAM DE IPRE[c] was the next earl of Kent, concerning whoſe parentage there is much difference among authors, ſome affirming him to be an illegitimate ſon of Philip, earl of Ipre, in Flanders, by the daughter of William Laon, viſcount of Ipre, ſecond ſon to Robert le Friſon, earl of Flanders; others, that he was ſon of Robert, marquis of thoſe parts of Picardy. After having given great proofs of his courage in Flanders and Normandy, as well during the latter part of king Henry I.'s reign, as the beginning of king Stephen's, he took part with the latter againſt Maud the empreſs, and did that prince ſeveral ſignal pieces of ſervice, as well in Normandy as in England, for which he was created Earl of Kent by king Ste-

[a] Guill. p. 286. [b] Cuſtumal. Roff. Harris, p. 419.
[c] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 611.

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phen, in the ſixth year of his reign. Before the end of that year the king meeting with his adverſaries at Lincolne, gave them battle, in which encounter this earl had a chief command, and behaved with great courage, notwithſtanding which the king's forces were routed, king Stephen himſelf, with the chief of his friends, made priſoners, and his enemies obtained the victory, and the earl, ſeeing all was loſt, ſaved himſelf and his men by a ſeaſonable retreat. After this victory the empreſs was immediately acknowledged as ſovereign in all parts of the realm except in Kent, where the queen and this earl had great power. Soon after which the former, obſerving that the empreſs had loſt the affections of the people by her haughty behaviour, took the advantage of it, and by the aſſiſtance of this earl, and other nobles, raiſed another army, which ſoon after, by that ſignal victory obtained at Glouceſter, turned the ſcale, ſo that the king was ſet at liberty. It is reported of this earl, that in the times of hoſtility between Maud the empreſs and king Stephen, he burnt the abbey of Wherwelle, in Hampſhire, becauſe the nuns of that houſe harboured ſome of the empreſs's followers. But when the times grew more calm and quiet, he made ſufficient recompence, by founding the abbey at Boxley, in this county, for Ciſtercian monks, in the year 1146. Earl William is ſaid by Camden to have fortified the town of Rye, in Suſſex, and to have built a tower there, which, in memory of him, was called Ipre's tower; he likewiſe obtained ſeveral immunities and privileges for it, in common with the reſt of the cinque ports. On the death of king Stephen, this earl, with the reſt of the Flemiſh, of which he was principal, was forced to depart the kingdom; after which, betaking himſelf to a monaſtic life,[a] he died a

[a] Dudg. Bar. vol. i. p. 611, 612. Tan. Mon. p. 213. Rapin, vol. i. p. 206. 223. Camd. Brit. p. 211.

monk, in the abbey of Laon, in Flanders, in 1162. He is ſaid by York herald to have borne for his arms, *Girony of ten or, and azure, an eſcutcheon gules, over all a baton ſiniſter humette argent*,[a] though it plainly appears by the quarterings borne by the Derings of Surrenden, in which this of Ipre is the fourth, that he bore *argent, two bars vaire azure and gules*. Normannus Fitz Dering, anceſtor to the preſent family of Dering, of Surrenden, in this county, is ſaid to have married Matilda, only ſiſter and heir of this William de Ipre, earl of Kent. In the reign of king Henry II. his ſon, whom he had cauſed to be crowned likewiſe king, having a deſign to raiſe a rebellion againſt his father, did, upon that account, give the title of Earl of Kent to Philip, earl of Flanders, but he was earl of Kent no otherwiſe than by bare title and promiſe; for as Gervas of Dover tells us, this Philip promiſed his utmoſt aſſiſtance to the young king, binding himſelf to homage by oath. In return for which the king promiſed him revenues of one thouſand pounds, with all Kent, the caſtle of Rocheſter, and the caſtle of Dover.[b]

HUBERT DE BURGH was the next earl of Kent, the chief of whoſe family, (according to our beſt genealogiſts) was William Fitz Aldelme, ſteward to king Henry II. and governor of Wexford, in Ireland, whoſe younger brother John, was father of Hubert de Burgh above-mentioned, who was in ſuch eſtimation with king John, that in the third year of his reign, being chamberlain of his houſehold, he was conſtituted warden of the marches of Wales, and governor of Dover caſtle. The next year, when Philip, king of France, had poſſeſſed himſelf of all Normandy, he, with the biſhop of Ely, was ſent embaſſador to treat with him for the reſtitution of it. From the 4th to

[a] York's Heraldry, p. 174.
[b] Camd. p. 259. Lel. Itin. vol. vii. p. 131. Coll. vol. i. p. 287.

the

the 15th year of king John he executed the office of ſheriff of ſeveral counties, and in the 16th year he was ſeneſchal of Poictu, and the next enſuing year, when the barons roſe in arms againſt the king, he was appointed one of the commiſſioners to treat with them at Runimede, near Stanes, where the king granted to the people, what had been ſo eagerly contended for by thoſe barons, in the two famous charters of liberty, called *Magna Charta* and *Charta de Foreſta*, and for the great eſtimation the king had of his merits, he advanced him to that eminent office of Juſtice of England. Soon after which he was conſtituted ſheriff of Kent and Surry, governor of the caſtle of Canterbury, and conſtable of Dover-caſtle; beſides which he had other truſts conferred on him. At the latter end of the ſame year, he obtained a grant of the lordſhip and hundred of Hoo, and was again appointed one of the commiſſioners to treat with Richard, earl of Clare, and others, on the part of the barons, in the church at Erith, in this county, concerning a peace between the king and them. In the 18th year of the ſame reign, upon the landing of Lewis of France, whom the barons had then called in, having the caſtle of Dover ſtill in his charge, he ſtoutly defended it againſt him. And as he ſtood firm to king John in his great diſtreſſes, ſo he did to Henry III. his ſon and ſucceſſor, then of tender age; for when Lewis again beſieged Dover-caſtle, and deſiring to ſpeak to him, tried to perſuade him, that king John being dead, he was under no obligation to hold it againſt him, promiſing, if he would deliver it up, to enrich him with great honours, and advance him to be the chief of his council. He boldly anſwered, that though the king his maſter was dead, he had left both ſons and daughters, who ought to ſucceed him, and that he would ſay more to him, when he had ſpoke with his fellow ſoldiers in the caſtle, which he ſoon did, abſolutely refuſing, by ſo doing, to incur

the

the guilt of treaſon. Upon which Lewis quitted the ſiege, and returned to London.[a] Soon after this, when Euſtace le Moyne, an eminent perſon in France, with ten more lords, came with a great fleet in aid of Lewis, Hubert, having but eight ſhips, encountered him at ſea, took him priſoner, and cut off his head. In the 4th year of king Henry III. upon the death of W. Mareſchal, earl of Pembroke, who had been governor of the king and kingdom, (the king being then but fourteen years of age,) he ſucceeded him in that truſt. The next year he ſuppreſſed a great and dangerous inſurrection in London, and in the 8th year of that reign, was conſtituted governor of the caſtles of Arundel and Rocheſter. Hubert having executed the office of ſheriff of Kent, from the beginning of the third, to the end of the eleventh year of that reign, he was, upon the 11th of February that year advanced to the dignity of Earl of Kent, *gladio comitatus Cantii accinctus*, as M. Paris writes; and upon the ſame day he obtained a grant of the manors of Eſtbrigg and Oſpringe in this county, as he did, ſoon after, of ſeveral other manors and lands in different counties: and a confirmation of others, purchaſed by him, among which were all the lands of Baldwin, earl of Guiſnes, in Newington, near Hyth, and the manor of Tunſtal, purchaſed from Robert Arſic; and in conſideration of his eminent ſervices, as well to the king as his father, by the advice of the peers of the whole realm, he had a grant of that great office of juſtice of England, to hold during his life, as alſo of the caſtle and port of Dover, with the revenues of that haven, and of the caſtles of Rocheſter and Canterbury, during his life, with the fee of one thouſand marks per annum for the cuſtody of them.—Having been created earl of Kent, as before-mentioned, he obtained a grant in the 13th year of king Henry III. of fifty pounds ſterling per annum, in

[a] Madox's Exchequer, p. 25. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 693.

lieu

lieu of the third penny of this county, to be received yearly from the ſheriff, at which time he had the further grant of ſeveral honors, manors, and lands in different parts of the realm, and upon the collection of the ſcutage of Kerry at that time, he anſwered for one hundred and thirty-eight knights fees and upwards. In the 16th year of that reign, increaſing in his intereſt with the king, he procured a ſpecial charter of privileges, that in caſe of ſickneſs, or abſence, he ſhould have power to aſſign a ſubſtitute, to be approved of by the king, in that high office of juſtice of England. Soon after which he obtained a grant of the office of juſtice of Ireland for life; he had alſo the cuſtody of the tower of London, with the caſtles of Odyham and Windſor, and the wardenſhip of that foreſt, being the greateſt and richeſt ſubject at that time in Europe.—Soon after this the king's favour towards him declined apace, for the ſame year, through the inſtigation of Peter de Rupibus, biſhop of Wincheſter, who then began to bear the chief ſway at court, he was firſt totally diſplaced from his office of juſtice of England, as well as from the cuſtody of the caſtles of Dover, Canterbury, Rocheſter, Windſor, Odyham, Hertford, Colcheſter, and the tower of London, Stephen de Segrave ſucceeded him in all theſe truſts: at the ſame time he was ſtrictly required to give account of all the king's treaſures, with which he had at any time meddled, of the different receipts of the king's debts, revenues, public and private, and of whatſoever elſe had been loſt through his negligence; but theſe were but trivial matters, in compariſon of what his enemies afterwards objected againſt him of treaſon in moſt of the negociations and tranſactions with foreign princes, in which he had been concerned. The ſcene being thus changed, he was forſaken by all, except the archbiſhop of Dublin, who, with tears, earneſtly interceded for him in vain, for Hubert was thrown into priſon, and treated with many indignities and much hard uſage, which moved

moved his ſtedfaſt friend, the archbiſhop, to intercede again for him, who at laſt prevailed ſo far, that he had his choice, either to abjure the realm for ever, or to ſubmit to perpetual impriſonment, or elſe openly to acknowledge himſelf a traitor.[a] To theſe hard propoſals he anſwered, knowing he had done nothing to deſerve them, that he was content to quit the kingdom, but not to abjure it for ever. In the mean time the king was told, that Hubert had depoſited great treaſures in the new Temple London; upon which he ſent his treaſurer, together with the juſtices of the exchequer, to Hubert, who had ſurrendered himſelf, and was then in fetters in the Tower, to demand them of him, who freely ſubmitted himſelf to the king's pleaſure, and directed the templars to deliver up the keys to the king. Great ſtore of plate, both gold and ſilver, much money, and many jewels of great value, were found depoſited by Hubert in the Temple, all which the king cauſed to be carried to his treaſury. Soon after this the king, out of compaſſion to him, permitted him to enjoy for his neceſſary ſupport all the lands which he had been poſſeſſed of, either by grant from king John, or by his own acquiſition. Hubert, not long after this, was bailed from his ſtrict impriſonment by Richard, earl of Cornwall, the king's brother, and other great men, and ſent to the caſtle of Deviſes; during his ſtay there, the king relenting, granted him a full and free pardon for his flight and outlawry, and that his heirs ſhould freely enjoy all the lands of his own inheritance; but as for ſuch as he had otherwiſe obtained, he ſhould truſt to the king's favour, who retained all thoſe of his own demeſne, which through his bounty he had beſtowed on him, as well as the caſtle of Mongomery, and other caſtles in England and Wales. After which, by a ſpecial grant, Hubert quitted his title to the office of juſtice of England, in conſideration of which he had reſ-

[a] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 696. Fox's Martyrs, vol. i. p. 312.

titution

titution of a vaſt proportion of lands in different counties, ſome of which were of his own inheritance, others part of the lands of his former wife, Beatrix de Warren, and others granted to him by different perſons, which grant of the king's bears date in the 18th year of his reign. But the greateſt part of theſe, under pretence of making reſtitution to thoſe whom Hubert had oppreſſed, were again taken from him, by which means he was left in a very neceſſitous condition. Hubert being ſtill a priſoner in the caſtle of Deviſes, the biſhop of Wincheſter ſolicited the king to appoint him governor of it, that he might have a fitter opportunity to murder him; but Hubert having private intimation of this, eſcaped over the caſtle wall, in the night, to the pariſh church, and there took refuge at the high altar; but this was of no advantage to him, for the ſheriff had orders to beſiege him there, and ſtarve him to death.[b] In this deſperate condition ſome of the ſoldiers had compaſſion on him, and took him thence to ſome of his friends, who putting a military habit on him, conveyed him into Wales. Here Hubert remained till the concluſion of the peace between king Henry and Leoline, prince of Wales, the firſt condition of which was a reconciliation between the king and all his nobles, who having adhered to Leoline had been baniſhed the realm; whereupon this earl, among others, was then at Glouceſter, received in favour. The king, ſoon after, in his 21ſt year, grew highly offended with him again, on account of Richard earl of Glouceſter, a minor, having clandeſtinely married Margaret, the earl's daughter, without licence, the king having deſigned to marry him to a near relation of his own, but being ſatisfied this had been tranſacted without the knowledge of Hubert, he was at length pacified with the promiſe of a ſum of money; and though Hubert after this remained faithful to the king at a time ſo many others deſerted him, ne-

[b] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 698. Fox, vol. i. p. 313. to 317.

vertheleſs,

vertheleſs, in expectation of extorting more money from him, the king again charged him with many crimes, to ſatisfy whom, he was adjudged, in the 24th year of that reign, to give up four of his chiefeſt caſtles; to which, being wholly worn out with trouble and ſorrows, he quietly ſubmitted, on condition that he might enjoy the reſt of his poſſeſſions in peace, and that he, and Margaret his wife, and the ſurvivor of them, ſhould enjoy all his other lands. He ſurvived this calm but a few years, for he died at Banſtede in Surry, on the 12th of May, in the twenty-ſeventh year of that reign, and his corpſe being brought to London, was there honorably interred within the church of the Friars Preachers, commonly called the Black Friars, in Holborne, to which convent he had been a large benefactor, having among other things, beſtowed on it his palace at Weſtminſter, aftewards purchaſed by the archbiſhop of York, and called Whitehall. His works of piety were many to ſeveral religious houſes, according to the cuſtom of the times he lived in: particularly he gave to the canons of Bradſole, alias St. Radigunds, near Dover, the church of Porteſlade; he founded the hoſpital of our Lady in Dover, and the church of the Maiſon Dieu in that town. As to his wives, he firſt married Joan, daughter of William de Vernun, earl of Devonſhire, and widow of William de Briwer, with whom he had in marriage the whole iſle of Wight, and other poſſeſſions; ſecondly, Beatrix, daughter of William de Warren, of Wirmegay in Norfolk, and widow of Dodo Bardolph; thirdly, Iſabell, third daughter and coheir of William, earl of Glouceſter, widow of Geffrey de Mandeville, earl of Eſſex, whom king John had firſt repudiated; and fourthly, Margaret, daughter of William, king of Scotland, whom, the court being then, anno 5 Henry III. at York, he there ſolemnly married, the king himſelf, with many of the nobility, being preſent at the ceremony, the archbiſhop of Canterbury joined their hands together. He left by his laſt wife two ſons, John and Hubert,

Hubert, and two daughters, Margaret and Magot; of whom Margaret was married to Richard de Clare, earl of Glouceſter, as has been before mentioned. Of the ſons, John, the eldeſt, ſided with the rebellious barons, and his lands were ſeized, but he ſucceeded as his father's heir. Hubert, the younger ſon, was anceſtor to Thomas Burgh, of Sterborough caſtle, in the county of Surry, who, in the third year of king Henry VII. was created lord Borough; but neither of theſe ſons enjoyed the title of earl of Kent.[a] He bore for his coat armour, *Gules ſeven lozenges vaire, three, three and one.*[b] Camden ſaith of this great man, that he was an entire lover of his country, and amidſt the ſtorms of adverſity, diſcharged all the duties that it could demand from the beſt of ſubjects.[c]

EDMUND, ſecond ſon of king Edward I. by Margaret, his ſecond wife, was the next Earl of Kent. He was ſurnamed, of Woodſtock, from his birth at that place in Oxfordſhire, anno 1301, being the twenty-ninth of his father's reign. In the 13th year of king Edward II. he was in the wars of Scotland, and the ſame year obtained of the king, his brother, ſeveral lordſhips, lands, and rents in different counties; all which were granted to him, in part of the performance of what his father had by his teſtament appointed, viz. that his ſon, king Edward II. ſhould ſettle upon this Edmund his brother, as he expected his bleſſing, lands to the value of two thouſand marks per annum. The next year he had ſeveral privileges granted for ſeveral of his lordſhips, and was alſo ſummoned to parliament as baron of Woodſtock; and the year after, he was upon the 28th day of July created earl of Kent, *per cinctum gladii*, by which title he was then ſummoned to

[a] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 694, 699, 700. Strype's Stow's Survey, vol. ii. p. 72. Sandford's Gen. Hiſt. p 49.
[b] York's Heraldry, p. 175.
[c] Camd. Brit. p. 261.

parliament,

parliament, the lords of which, with their numerous attendants, were at this time entertained at the king's charge. The proviſions for this purpoſe were ſent up from the ſeveral counties, in conſequence of writs ſent to the ſeveral ſheriffs. Thus the ſheriff of Kent, by writ as 6 Edward II. was commanded to provide one hundred quarters of corn, one hundred quarters of malt, two hundred of oats, forty oxen, one hundred muttons, and forty hogs, the coſts of which was to be allowed him in his accounts.[a] The earl of Kent at the ſame time had a grant of the caſtle of Okham in the county of Rutland, and in farther ſupplement of the above-mentioned two thouſand marks per annum, a grant of the manor of Kingſbury in the county of Somerſet. In this year alſo he was conſtituted governor of Tonebrigge caſtle in this county, and upon that inſurrection then made by Thomas, earl of Lancaſter, was one of thoſe to whom the king granted commiſſion to purſue and take him, and for that purpoſe to lay ſiege to his caſtle of Pontefract; upon the taking of that earl afterwards at Burrowbrigg, he was one of the chief perſons that gave ſentence of death upon him. In the 1ſt year of king Edward III. he was in an expedition made into Scotland, and the ſame year obtained a grant of the town, caſtle, and honor of Arundel in Suſſex, the manor of Swanſcombe in this county, and ſeveral other lordſhips and lands. To this earl the care of king Edward III. during his minority, was principally committed, and with him were joined in this important truſt, Henry, earl of Lincoln, and Roger, lord Mortimer of Wigmore. In conſideration of his good and acceptable ſervices, and in part of his father's bequeſt to him, he obtained the next year ſeveral lordſhips and lands, and had afterwards the important poſt of conſtable of Dover-caſtle conferred on him. In the third year of king Edward III. he had poſſeſſion granted of the dowry of

[a] Dugd. Orig. p. 18. Rym. Fœd. vol. iii. p. 418.

Margaret

Margaret his wife, (widow of John Comin, of Badenagh,) lying in Tyndale, which Margaret was daughter of John, and ſiſter and heir of Thomas, lord Wake.—The occaſion of his death is variouſly related; however, the general opinion is, it was for plotting the reſtoration of king Edward II. his brother, who, he had been informed, had eſcaped that cruel murder in Berkley-caſtle, which was generally believed to have been acted upon him, and which, indeed was but too true, that prince having been murdered near twelve months before.[b] Being accuſed of treaſon, he was arreſted at a council held at Wincheſter, in the 4th year of king Edward III. upon which, having made his confeſſion, he ſubmitted to mercy; but by the malice of queen Iſabel, who governed all during the minority of her ſon, and of Roger, lord Mortimer, her minion, he was not only adjudged to die for high treaſon, for plotting the delivery of the late king, but was led forth to execution at Wincheſter that very day; where he ſtaid on the ſcaffold from noon till five o'clock in the evening, expecting the fatal ſtroke, which no one would give him till a malefactor out of the Marſhalſea, being promiſed his life as a reward, beheaded him. Immediately after which, proclamations were diſperſed throughout England to inform the people of the reaſon of his being put to death. In the king's letter to the pope, concerning this earl's execution, he was accuſed of having conſulted an evil ſpirit, who had aſſured him, king Edward II. was yet alive, though the earl himſelf had attended his funeral. The lands and rents of which he died poſſeſſed were very great; among others were ſeveral manors and eſtates in this county, beſides the yearly rent of thirty pounds, payable out of the profits of the county, by the hands of the ſheriff of it for the time

[b] Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 92, 93. Cott. Libr. Veſpaſian. A. 5, 21.

being.[a] Several of theſe lordſhips and rents were aſſigned, ſhortly after, to Margaret his widow, for her dowry. By her the earl had two ſons, Edmund and John, ſucceſſively earls of Kent, of whom hereafter, and a daughter, Joane, firſt married to ſir Thomas Holand, knight, next to William de Montague, earl of Saliſbury, and laſtly to Edward, prince of Wales, commonly called the Black Prince. He bore for his arms, *Gules, three lions paſſant guardant or, a bordure argent.* The arms of Margaret Wake, his wife, were, *or two bars gules, three torteuxes in chief,* which coat ſtands impaled with earl Edmond's, in a window in Cheſterfield church in the county of Derby.[b] The above coat of this earl, viz. *three lions within a bordure* is carved on the roof of the cloyſters of the cathedral church of Canterbury, and on the roof of the ſouthern part of that church; it was depicted in the windows of Wickham-brews church, and remained a few years ago on ſome ſmall antique tiles in South-fleet church.

EDMUND PLANTAGENET, eldeſt ſon of the laſt earl, was, upon his petition in the parliament held that year, reſtored to the Earldom of Kent, his father's attainder being reverſed; but he died the next year the king's ward, and without iſſue, leaving his brother John to ſucceed him. He bore the ſame arms as his father.

JOHN PLANTAGENET, brother to the laſt earl, ſucceeded him in the Earldom of Kent, and making proof of his age in the 25th year of king Edward III. had poſſeſſion granted of all his lands, his mother being then dead, in which year he ſat in parliament, by the title of earl of Kent;[c] but he did not long ſurvive, for he died on St. Stephen's day in the year following, anno 26 Edward III. and was buried in the church of the Friars Minors, at Wincheſter. He married Elizh,

[a] Rym. Fœd. vol. iv. p. 424. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 94. Sandf. Gen. Hiſt. p. 213. Rot. Eſch.

[b] Sandf. Gen. Hiſt. p. 213.

[c] Cott. Records, p. 77. Dugd. Bar. ibid.

daughter

daughter of the duke of Juliers, ſhe ſurvived him, and afterwards took upon her the habit of a nun in the abbey of Waverley, after which, quitting her profeſſion, ſhe clandeſtinely married Euſtace Dabridgecourt, ſecond ſon of the lord Dabridgecourt of Henault, in the chapel of the manſion-houſe of Robert de Brome, a canon in the collegiate church of Wingham, without licence from the archbiſhop of Canterbury, for which both ſhe and her huſband were ſentenced to a ſevere but moſt ridiculous penance. She died 12 Henry IV. and by her will ordered her body to be buried in the church of the Friars Minors at Wincheſter, in the tomb of her late huſband, John earl of Kent, who had no iſſue by her;[d] upon which Joane her ſiſter, then the wife of ſir Thomas Holand, knight, was found to be his next heir. He died poſſeſſed of money and lands in this and ſeveral other counties, and of the yearly fee, as earl of Kent, of thirty pounds, payable out of the profits of this county by the hands of the ſheriff for the time being. The arms of this John, and Elizh his wife, were painted in a window of the cathedral church of Litchfield, being the ſame as his brother's, impaled with *Juliers, or a lion rampant ſable.*[e]

JOANE PLANTAGENET, ſiſter and heir of the laſt-mentioned John earl of Kent, and called for her admirable beauty, the Fair Maid of Kent, was at that time the wife of ſir Thomas Holand, knight, ſecond ſon of ſir Robert Holand of Lancaſhire, by Maud his wife, daughter of Alan de la Zouch. Sir Thomas Holand ſignaliſed himſelf greatly in the wars of France, eſpecially at the famous battle of Creſſi, where he had the chief command in the van of prince Edward's army. Theſe exploits gained him ſuch a high reputation for courage and military ſkill, that in the 24th year of king Edward III. he was elected into the moſt noble order

[d] Dugd. Bar. ibid. Lel. Itin. vol. iii. p. 75.
[e] Inquis poſt Mort. anno 27 Edward III.

of the garter, at that time founded by the king. Before which, being ſteward of the houſhold to William Montague, earl of Saliſbury, he fell deeply in love with Joane Plantagenet above-mentioned, and having contracted himſelf to her, had knowledge of her, but being called abroad before he could ſolemnize his marriage, the earl of Saliſbury took advantage of his abſence, and inticed her to make a ſecond contract with him, and at ſir Thomas Holand's return unjuſtly detained her from him; but upon an appeal to the pope, he, upon hearing the merits of the cauſe, gave ſentence in favor of ſir Thomas, who, in conſequence thereof, poſſeſſed her, and the earl of Saliſbury acquieſcing afterwards, married another woman. After which, anno 26 Edward III. ſir Thomas Holand, obtained a grant of one hundred marks per annum for the better ſupport of Joane his wife, during her life, and having iſſue by her two years afterwards, and doing his homage, he had poſſeſſion granted of the lands of her inheritance, excepting the dowry of Elizh, widow of John, late earl of Kent. Next year, being made lieutenant and captain-general in the dukedom of Britanny, and parts of Poictou adjacent, as well as in other places belonging to John, Duke of Britanny, then in his minority, he had for his ſupport in that ſervice aſſignation of the whole revenues of that dukedom. In the 30th year of king Edward III. he was conſtituted governor of the iſles of Guernſey, Jerſey, Sark, and Alderney, and the next year governor of the fort of Cruyk, in Normandy, and the year after that, of the caſtle and fort of St. Saviour le Viſcount, &c. He had ſummons to parliament from the 27th to the 31ſt of this reign, among the barons of this realm, by the title of Thomas de Holand, chevalier. In the 34th year of that reign he aſſumed the title of Earl of Kent, in right of his wife, for it does not appear that he had ever any creation to that dignity; by which title he had

ſummons

ſummons to parliament that year.[a] But before the end of it he died, being then poſſeſſed of ſeveral manors and lands in this county among others. By Joane, his wife, he left three ſons, Thomas, Edmund, and John; which John was afterwards created duke of Exeter, and married Elizabeth, ſecond daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter, by whom he had three ſons and a daughter, Conſtance, married firſt to Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, by whom ſhe had no iſſue; and ſecondly to John, lord Gray of Ruthin, from whom all the earls of Kent of that family derived their deſcent. After his death his widow ſtill retained ſo much beauty and elegance of perſon, that ſhe attracted the admiration of that martial prince, and heir apparent to the crown of England, Edward, ſurnamed the Black Prince, who became ſo enamoured of her, that, after he had refuſed ſeveral illuſtrious matches, he, in the twenty-ſixth year of his father's reign, made choice of her for his wife; but by reaſon of their conſanguinity (for ſhe was couſin-german to his father,) they were obliged to have a diſpenſation from the pope. She outlived prince Edward, her third huſband, having had iſſue by him king Richard II. in the 9th year of whoſe reign, anno 1385, ſhe died, at Wallingford-caſtle, of grief, as it is ſaid, becauſe the king denied her earneſt requeſt for the pardon of her ſon, and his half-brother, John Holand, who had ſlain Ralph, ſon and heir of Hugh, earl Stafford. Her corpſe, embalmed and wrapt in lead, was ordered to be honourably entombed in the church of the Friars Minors, at Stamford. Sir Thomas Holand bore for his coat armour, *azure ſemi de lize, and a lion rampant guardant or.* The lady Joane, his wife, during his life-time, bore *per pale Holand and Kent.* Her arms, impaled with thoſe of prince Edward, her Huſband, are carved upon the north ſide of the tomb of queen Phillippa in Weſtminſter-abbey, and were

[a] Cott. Records, p. 5. and Rym. Fœd. vol. vi. p. 213.

alſo painted in a window in Chriſt church, Newgate-ſtreet. In the church of Wickham-brews, in this county, in the windows, were depicted the arms of prince Edward, France and England, a label of three points; another ſhield, the like coat, impaling Holand; and a third, the prince of Wales's device, three oſtriches feathers, each with a ſcrole on it, *ich dien.*

THOMAS, the eldeſt ſon of Thomas Holand, earl of Kent above-mentioned, by Joane his wife, ſucceeded his father, as Earl of Kent, and lord Wake of Lydel. In the 40th year of Edward III. having been knighted by the Black Prince, who had married his mother, he bravely ſupported him in the battle fought that year with Henry, king of Caſtile. In regard to his near alliance to the king, he obtained, for the better ſupport of his ſtate, in the firſt year of king Richard II. a grant of two hundred pounds per ann. out of the exchequer, and was conſtituted general warden of all the foreſts ſouth of Trent, and had afterwards other poſts of truſt conferred on him. Two years afterwards he obtained, in farther augmentation of his revenue, a grant of ſeveral rents for the increaſe of the above-mentioned ſum to one thouſand pounds per annum, and the ſame year he was appointed marſhal of England.[a] In the 4th year of that reign, in which year, and to the 20th of it, he had ſummons to parliament as earl of Kent, in the former of which years he was one of the embaſſadors ſent into Flanders, to treat of a marriage for king Richard with Anne, ſiſter to the emperor; in the 8th year he was made general of Cherburgh, and in the 9th year of it, upon the death of Joane, princeſs of Wales, his mother, doing his homage, he obtained a ſpecial poſſeſſion and grant of the lands of her inheritance, though all the inquiſitions taken after her death, were not then returned into chancery, and among other poſſeſſions which ſhe then held in dower in different counties, was the hun-

[a] Sandford's Gen. Hiſt. p. 215. York's Honor, p. 176.

dred

dred of Wachelſtone in this county; ſhe alſo died poſſeſſed in her demeſne as of fee, in other manors and lands; this Thomas de Holand, earl of Kent, being found her ſon and heir; and in the 13th year of that reign he was made conſtable of the tower of London. In the 20th year of it having declared his teſtament by the title of earl of Kent, and lord Wake, he appointed to be buried in the abbey of Brune, and bequeathed to Alice his wife, and Thomas his ſon, all his goods and chattles. He died on the 25th of April, being then poſſeſſed, among others, of the manor of Wickham-brews in this county. He had by Alice his wife, daughter of Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel whom he married in the 34th of king Edw. III. four ſons and ſix daughters; viz. Thomas, who ſucceeded him in titles; Edmund, who ſucceeded his brother; and John, and Richard, who died young.[b] Of the daughters, Eleanor married, firſt, Roger Mortimer, earl of March; and ſecondly, Edward Charlton, lord Powis. Margaret was twice married; firſt to John Beaufort, earl of Somerſet, afterwards to Thomas, duke of Clarence, and lies buried, with both her huſbands, in Canterbury cathedral. Eleanor, the younger of that name, was the wife of Thomas Montague, earl of Saliſbury. Joane was firſt wife of Edmund Langley, duke of York, and afterwards of ſir Henry Bromflete.[c] She next married Henry le Scroope, of Maſham, and laſtly William de Willoughby, of Ereſby. Elizabeth married John, lord Nevill, ſon and heir of the earl of Weſtmoreland; and Bridget was a nun at Barking. He had alſo by Conſtance, only daughter of Edmund de Langley, duke of York, a natural daughter, afterwards married to James Touchet, lord Audley.[d] In a charter in French, dated at London Feb. 8th, anno 11 Richard II. 1387, the above Thomas

[b] Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 75. 76. Sandf. Gen. Hiſt. p. 216.
[c] See Dugd. Bar vol. i. p. 659. vol. ii. p. 84.
[d] See Sandford's Gen. Hiſt. p. 216.

ſtiles himſelf, Thomas de Holand, *comte de Kent*, and *ſeigneur de Wake*. His ſeal is appendant to it, upon which is repreſented, a hind lodged under a tree, gorged with a ducal coronet, which was the device of his mother, the counteſs Joane; and upon a ſhield, hanging about the neck of her hind, her arms, being *Gules three lions paſſant guardant or, a bordure argent*; which coat this earl Thomas aſſumed, diſcontinuing the paternal coat of his family. Theſe arms are in two places on the roof of Canterbury cloiſters.

THOMAS HOLAND, eldeſt ſon of the laſt mentioned earl, by Alice his wife, ſucceeded him as Earl of Kent and lord Wake of Lydel, ſhortly after which, doing his homage, he had poſſeſſion granted of his lands; and upon the attainder of Thomas de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, had a grant of much of his lands, and the ſame year he had the title of Duke of Surry conferred on him, the king then ſitting in parliament, crowned. It is obſerved, that in the ceremony of his creation, and others at that time, the *virga aurea* was firſt uſed in the inveſture.[a] In which year he was appointed Marſhal of England, and made a knight of the order of the Garter, and obtained a grant from the king of the curious pieces of arras hangings at Warwick caſtle, on which was richly depicted the ſtory of Guy earl of Warwick, and by the forfeiture of Thomas earl of Warwick, then in the crown.[b] About this time the duke founded the priory of Carthuſians at Montgrace, in Yorkſhire,[c] and in the 22d year of that reign he was made lieutenant of Ireland, and obtained a grant of the barony of Norrhage in that kingdom, and was made governor of the caſtles of Leverpole and Cletherow. The next year he went into Ireland with king Richard, and when the unwelcomenews of Henry

[a] Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 76. Cotton's Records, p. 366 et ſeq.
[b] Dugd. Warwickſh. p. 323. Chauncy's Hertf. p. 204. York's Honour, p. 177. [c] Burt. Mon. p. 258.

duke

duke of Lancaſter's arrival in England came, this duke returned back with him. The reſignation and depoſal of king Richard ſoon after taking place, the duke, in a parliament, held in the 1ſt year of king Henry IV. was doomed to loſe his title, in regard he had been one of the proſecutors of Thomas of Woodſtock, duke of Glouceſter; much diſcontented, therefore, with this change of government, he plotted with others the getting into Windſor caſtle, where king Henry then kept his Chriſtmas, under diſguiſe, to murder him, and to reſtore king Richard, but they were diſappointed, for the king having notice of it, was gone privily to London. After this the earl, with ſome of his company, rode to Wallingford and Abingdon, exhorting the people to put themſelves in arms for king Richard; at length they came to Cirenceſter, in the dark of the night, ſtill encouraging the people to arm, but the townſmen blocked up the avenues, and when they attempted about midnight to get away privately, with bows and arrows hindered their paſſage. Diſcerning therefore their danger, they armed themſelves, ſuppoſing they might eaſily conquer theſe ruſtics, which finding they could not do, after three hours fight, they ſubmitted, intreating that their lives might be ſpared, till they could ſpeak with the king. During this confuſion, a prieſt of the company preſumed, if he could ſet ſome houſes on fire, that the inhabitants would be ſo much employed in quenching the flames, that they ſhould find an opportunity of eſcaping, but this attempt only enraged the people the more, who let their houſes burn, that they might take this earl, and the earl of Saliſbury, both of whom they brought out of the abbey, and cut off their heads, and then ſent the head of the former to London, where it was ſet upon the bridge. But Joane his wife, daughter of Hugh lord Stafford, prevailed with the king to have it taken down, and delivered to her, to bury it where ſhe pleaſed, and ſhe got leave to remove his body from

Cirenceſter,

Cirenceſter, and convey it to the priory of Montgrace, of his own foundation.[a] In the parliament held next year this earl was attainted, and his lands ſeiſed. He bore for his arms thoſe of king Edward the Confeſſor, impaled with his paternal coat, *Gules three lions paſſant guardant or, both within a plain bordure argent.*[b]

EDMUND, his brother, dying without iſſue, the laſt mentioned earl ſucceeded him as Earl of Kent, and before the end of that year obtained ſpecial poſſeſſion of almoſt all the caſtles, manors, and lands of which his brother died poſſeſſed, by virtue of an old entail made of them formerly to his anceſtors. In the 6th year of king Henry IV. the earl of Mar came out of Scotland, and challenged earl Edmund in feats of arms, but the latter won the field. Two years after which he married the lady Lucy, daughter of the duke of Millaine, in the priory of St. Mary Overy, in Southwark, and kept his wedding feaſt in the biſhop of Wincheſter's houſe. In the 9th year of that reign he was made lord-admiral of England,[c] but ſhortly after, beſieging the caſtle in the iſle of Briac, in Brittany, he received a mortal wound in his head, by an arrow from a croſs-bow. After his death, his body was brought into England, and buried with his anceſtors. He had ſummons to parliament in the 7th and 9th years of that reign, and was knight of the Garter.[d] The earl had no iſſue by the lady Lucy his wife, ſo that Edmund the ſon of Eleanor, late counteſs of March, his eldeſt ſiſter; Margaret his ſecond ſiſter, firſt married to John earl of Somerſet, and afterwards to Thomas duke of Clarence; Eleanor, the younger of that name, his third ſiſter, the wife of Thomas earl

[a] Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 76, 77. Chauncy's Hertf. p. 204. Rapin, vol. i. p. 489.

[b] Sandf. Gen. Hiſt. p. 216. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 77. Chauncy, p. 205. Leland's Coll. vol. i. part ii. p. 485.

[c] Spelman's Gloſſ. p. 16.

[d] Cott. Records, p. 449. 463. York, p. 175.

of Saliſbury; Joane his fourth ſiſter, dutcheſs of York, wife of ſir Henry Bromflete, knight; and Elizh his fifth ſiſter, married to ſir John Neville, knight; were found to be his heirs. He bore for his arms, *England within a bordure argent.*—It appears by the Tower records, that king Henry IV. kept a great council at Weſtminſter, wherein debate was moved between the earls of Kent and Arundel for their places in parliament, and likewiſe between the earl of Warwick and the earl marſhal; when it was determined that the earl of Kent ſhould have place above the earl of Arundel, and the earl of Warwick above the earl marſhal, and they were each put perſonally in poſſeſſion of their reſpective places.[e]

William Nevill was the next who enjoyed this title of Earl of Kent, ſo created by Edward IV. and alſo knight of the Garter. He was the ſecond ſon of Ralph Nevill, the firſt earl of Weſtmoreland of that name, by Joane his ſecond wife, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter, and widow of ſir Robert Ferrers, knight; which William Neville married Joane, daughter of ſir Thomas Fauconberge, knight, who, making proof of her age in the 10th year of king Henry V. being then fifteen years old, had poſſeſſion granted of the lands of her inheritance, and in her right he from henceforward bore the title of lord Fauconberge.[f] In the 4th year of king Henry VI. after the king himſelf was made a knight by his uncle, the duke of Bedford, at Leiceſter, this William, among others, received the like honour at his hands; and in the 7th year of that reign was ſummoned to parliament by the ſtile of William de Nevill, ch',[g] as he was afterwards with the addition of *de Fauconberge*. In the 9th year of that reign, he ſhewed his military ſkill and valour in a very high

[e] Cott. Rec. p. 574.
[f] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 299, 308, and vol. ii. p. 4.
[g] Cott. Rec. p. 656, &c.

degree,

degree, at the ſiege of Orleance. In the 26th year he was again in the wars of France, and was afterwards made governor of the caſtle of Roxburgh, in Scotland; after which, being ſent ambaſſador into Normandy, to treat of a peace and truce betwixt both realms, he was moſt perfidiouſly ſeized upon by the French, and kept priſoner. In the 32d year of the ſame reign he was ſtill a priſoner in France; and in the 35th of it, being again employed in the wars, he was of the retinue of Richard Nevill, earl of Warwick, his nephew, and lieutenant of the marches there; and in the firſt year of king Edward IV. having fought valiantly for that king in the battle of Touton, where the Lancaſtrians received an overthrow, he had, in conſideration of his great ſervices, a large reward, and was ſoon afterwards advanced to the title of Earl of Kent, and made lord-admiral of England, which title and honour he did not long enjoy, but died in the 2d year of king Edward IV. being then knight of the Garter, leaving three daughters his heirs, viz. Joane, wife of ſir Edward Bedhowing; Elizabeth, wife of ſir Richard Strangeways; and Alice, wife of ſir John Coniers.[a] He was buried in the priory of Giſborough, in the county of York, and thus dying without male iſſue, the title of Earl of Kent became *extinct*. He bore for his arms the coat of Nevill, viz. *Gules a ſaltier argent, a mullet ſable in the center*, for difference.

Edmund Grey, lord of Haſtings, Weysford, and Ruthen, was, by king Edward IV. in his 5th year, next created Earl of Kent. This noble family of Grey is ſaid to derive its deſcent from Anſchetil de Grai, often mentioned in the book of Domeſday, as holding lands in different counties, in the reign of William the Conqueror, when that general ſurvey was made.[b] His

[a] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 309. Rym. Fœd. vol. ii. p. 490.

[b] Collins's Peer. vol. ii. p. 370. Burton's Leic. p. 122. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 724.

ſon and ſucceſſor was Richard de Graſ, or Grey, who lived in the reign of king Henry I. and was a great benefactor to Eynſham abbey. By Mabilla, his wife, who ſurvived him, he had three ſons, Anſchetil, William, and a third who was a monk in that abbey. Anſchetil, the eldeſt ſon, was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon and heir ſir John Grey; for he had another ſon, named likewiſe John, who was biſhop of Norwich, and afterwards, in 1206, elected archbiſhop of Canterbury, but the pope oppoſing his advancement, he never obtained the pall. Sir John de Grey, the elder brother, had three ſons, Robert, Walter, Henry de Grey, and two daughters. Of theſe ſons, ſir Robert de Grey, the eldeſt, was anceſtor to the barons Grey of Rotherfield, in the county of Oxford, which line became extinct in the reign of king Henry IV.[c] This branch bore for their arms, *Barry of ſix argent, and azure with a bend gules*, for difference.[d] Walter de Grey, the ſecond ſon, was, in the 7th year of king John, made lord-chancellor, and afterwards promoted to the ſee of Litchfield, and from thence to the archbiſhopric of York. Sir Henry de Grey knight, the youngeſt ſon, having married Iſolda, the eldeſt of the five neices and coheirs of Robert Bardulph, ſhared in the inheritance of all their lands in the 9th year of king Henry III. He had iſſue by her three ſons, viz. ſir Richard de Grey, whoſe principal ſeat was at Codnore in the county of Derby, whoſe deſcendants were barons Grey of Codnore, which branch terminated in Henry lord Grey of Codnore, who died anno 11 Henry VII. without lawful iſſue, and was buried at Aylesford, in the deſcription of which pariſh more may be ſeen of him. They bore for their arms, *Barry of ſix argent and azure*. Sir John de Grey the ſecond ſon, was ſeated at Eaton, near Fenny Stratford,

[c] Collins's Peer. vol. ii. p. 373 et ſeq. Burt. Leic. p. 122. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 712.

[d] Cooke's Bar. MSS.

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in Buckinghamſhire, and was anceſtor to the lords Grey of Wilton and Ruthin, from whom the earls of Kent derive their deſcent, and of whom more will be ſaid hereafter.—William the third ſon, was of Sandiacre, in the county of Derby, which branch terminated in the reign of king Henry IV. in a female heir, Alice de Grey, who marrying ſir John Leak, brought great poſſeſſions to him; from which match the late earls of Scarſdale were deſcended.—Sir John de Grey, of Eaton, before-mentioned, ſecond ſon of ſir Henry, was much favoured by king Henry III. and had ſeveral poſts of the greateſt truſt conferred on him from time to time, one of which was that of conſtable of Dover caſtle. He died in the fiftieth year of that reign, far advanced in years, being then chief of the king's council, and greatly eſteemed for his wiſdom and valour. He left by Emma his wife, daughter and heir of Geoffrey de Glanville, a ſon named Reginald, and one daughter. The ſon Reginald, in conſideration of his ſervices, had a grant, in the 21ſt year of king Edward I. of part of the honour of Monmouth, and of the caſtle of Ruthyn, in the county of Denbigh, with the cantred of Driſſencloyt. His death happened in the 1ſt year of king Edward II. He married Maud, daughter and heir of Henry de Longchampe, a baron of the realm, whoſe principal ſeat was at Wilton, in Herefordſhire, by which means that lordſhip came into this family. He left by her one ſon and heir, John de Grey, ſirnamed of Wilton,[a] who was an active man in the king's ſervice, during his father's life, as well as afterwards. In the 13th year of king Edward II. he had ſummons to parliament by the title of John de Grey, ch^r. and bore for his arms, *Barry of ſix argent, and azure a label of three points gules.*[b] He died in the 17th year of that reign, having been twice married, firſt to Anne, daugh-

[a] Coll. Peer. vol. ii. p. 377. Bar. vol. i. p. 713.
[b] Cotton's Records, p. 3. Cooke's Bar. MSS.

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ter of William lord Ferrers, of Groby, by whom he had a ſon, Henry de Grey; ſecondly to Maud, daughter of Ralph lord Baſſet, of Drayton, by whom he had a ſon, Roger de Grey, and one daughter. Henry de Grey, only ſon of the firſt marriage, was ſummoned to parliament as lord Grey of Wilton, and by Anne his wife, daughter and coheir of Ralph Rockby, was anceſtor to the lords Grey of Wilton, who became extinct in the beginning of James I.'s reign.[c] Roger de Grey, the only ſon of John, by the ſecond marriage, died in the 27th year of king Edward III. having been ſummoned to parliament from the fourth year of it to that of his death. He married Elizh, daughter of John lord Haſtings, of Bergavenny, and of Iſabel his wife, ſiſter and coheir of Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, by which match his poſterity became heirs to the laſt John de Haſtings, earl of Pembroke, who was killed in a tournament at Woodſtock, in the 11th year of king Richard II. He had iſſue by her two ſons, John and Reginald, and three daughters. He added *three torteauxes in chief to his arms*, to diſtinguiſh himſelf and his deſcendants from thoſe of his half brother Henry de Grey of Wilton, the only ſon of his father's firſt marriage, the antient arms of this family being *Barry of ſix argent and azure.* Of his ſons, John, the eldeſt, died in his father's life-time, before he could celebrate his intended nuptials with Anne, the daughter of William Montague, firſt earl of Saliſbury.[d] Upon which Reginald, the ſecond ſon, became, at the time of his father's death, his ſole heir, and bore the title of lord Grey of Ruthin, by which he was ſummoned to parliament. In the latter end of king Edward III.'s reign, the branches of Codnore and Rotherfield began

[c] Coll. Peer. vol. ii. p. 377 et ſeq. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 713, 714.

[d] Burton's Leic. p. 122, 123. Cooke's Bar. MSS. Coll. Peer. vol. ii. p. 379 et ſeq. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 716. Ibid. Warwickſh. p. 73.

to

to be ſpelt Gray, as were thoſe of Wilton and Ruthin, conſtantly from the 7th year of king Richard II. in their ſummons to parliament.[a] He died in the 12th year of king Richard II. being then poſſeſſed of the caſtle of Ruthin, with other territories in the marches of Wales, and of the manors of Wreſt and Flitton, in the county of Bedford, and of others in the counties of Huntingdon, Northampton, and Buckingham. He married Alianor, daughter of John lord Strange, of Blackmore, by whom he had one ſon, Reginald, and a daughter, Alianor. Which Reginald, in the 14th year of king Richard II. on the death of John Haſtings earl of Pembroke, was found to be next heir. He had great diſputes with Owen Glendowrdwy, concerning the boundaries of their reſpective lands, by whom being overpowered, Reginald became his priſoner, and paid ten thouſand marks for his ranſom, to diſcharge which he was neceſſitated to ſell ſeveral manors and lands in this county, and beſides to marry Jane, daughter of Glendowrdwy, but by her he had no iſſue. He had alſo a great conteſt in the court of chivalry with ſir Edward de Haſtings, concerning the titles of lord Haſtings, Weiſhford, and Abergavenny, and the bearing the entire arms of John de Haſtings, late earl of Pembroke, to whom he was heir, as has been before obſerved, which cauſe coming to a final ſentence in the 11th year of king Henry IV. the right and title to the name and and arms was adjudged to him and his heirs, as lord Haſtings, and ſir Edward de Haſtings was thenceforth prohibited to bear them. He died in the 19th year of king Henry VI. having received ſummons to parliament from the 17th year to the time of his death, by the title of Reginald Grey de Ruthin, ch^r.[b] He was twice married, firſt to Margaret, daughter to William lord Roos, by whom he had one ſon, John de Grey; ſecondly to Joane, daughter and heir

[a] Cotton's Records. [b] Ibid.

of

of William lord Aſteley, and widow of Thomas Raleigh, of Farnborough, in the county of Warwick, eſquire, by whom he had three ſons; Edward, the eldeſt, married Elizh, daughter and heir of Henry lord Ferrers, of Groby, and was anceſtor of Edward Grey, viſcount Liſle, and Thomas Grey, marquis Dorſet, in the reign of Edward IV. and of Henry Grey, duke of Suffolk, in that of Edward VI. all now extinct, and of the preſent earl of Stamford; John, the ſecond ſon, was of Barwel, in the county of Leiceſter; and Robert, the third ſon, was of Enville, in Staffordſhire. Sir John de Grey, Reginald's only ſon by his firſt wife, though he died in his father's life time, yet he was a perſon of great note and eminence, and of ſignal bravery and reputation as a ſoldier, and at the time of his death was one of the knights companions of the order of the Garter. He married Conſtance, daughter of John Holand, the firſt of that name, duke of Exeter, by Elizh, ſecond daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter, and ſiſter to king Henry IV.[c] and widow of Thomas lord Mowbray, ſon of Thomas duke of Norfolk, who died in exile. By her he left two ſons, Edmund and Thomas, and Alice a daughter. Edmund, the eldeſt, was his grandfather's heir. Thomas, the ſecond ſon in the 28th year of king Henry VI. was created lord Grey of Rugemont, in the county of Bedford, and for his attachment to the houſe of Lancaſter, was, with many others, attainted in parliament, in the 1ſt year of Edward IV. and died without iſſue. He bore for his arms, *Barry of ſix argent and azure, a bend gules, and in chief three torteauxes.*[d]

EDMUND, the elder brother, in the 19th year of king Henry VI. ſucceeded his grandfather, and was that year ſummoned to parliament by the title of Edmund

[c] Sandford's Gen. Hiſt. p. 217.
[d] Coll. Peer. vol. ii. p. 384. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 717. Cooke's Bar. MSS.

lord Gray of Ruthin,[a] and in the 3d year of king Edward IV. was appointed lord high treaſurer of England, and two years after, viz. on May the 3d, in the 5th year of that reign, anno 1465, he, then uſing the title of lord and baron Haſtings, Weysford, and Ruthin, was created Earl of Kent, and had a grant of twenty pounds yearly, to be paid by the ſheriff of Kent out of the iſſues of the county, in ſupport of that honour,[b] and had ſummons to parliament by that title accordingly, having obtained from king Richard III. a confirmation of his creation patent, as he did again from king Henry VII. in his 2d year.[c] He died in the 4th year of king Henry VII. having married Catherine, daughter of Henry Percy, ſecond Earl of Northumberland, by whom he had four ſons; Anthony, who died unmarried in his life time, and lies buried at Luton, in Bedfordſhire; John and Edmund, who both died young; George, who continued the line, and will be mentioned below; and two daughters, Elizh and Anne. He bore for his arms, *Barry of ſix argent and azure, in chief three torteauxes*, quartered with Haſtings and Valence quarterly.

GEORGE the fourth, but only ſurviving ſon, ſucceeded his father as Earl of Kent, and baron Haſtings, Weysford, and Ruthin, and was a chief leader of the king's forces in the frequent tumults of thoſe times, particularly in the 12th year of king Henry VII. on the rebellion of the Corniſhmen, under James lord Audley, he was one of the chief of the Engliſh nobility that appeared againſt them, and by his conduct and valour, they were in a great meaſure overthrown on Blackheath, and great numbers of them ſlain. He died in the 22d year of that reign,[d] having been twice married; firſt to Anne, daughter of Richard Woodvile,

[a] Rot. Cart. 5, 6, and 7 Ed. IV. No. 18. [b] Cot. Records. [c] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 718. Pat. anno 5 Rich. III. Harl. MSS. No. 433. 891. ..... [d] Collin's Peer. vol. ii. p. 385. Dugdale ſays anno 20 Hen. VII. Bar. vol. i. p. 718.

earl

earl Rivers, and widow of William viſcount Bourchier, by whom he had a ſon, Richard, who ſucceeded him. He married ſecondly Catharine, daughter of William Herbert, earl of Pembroke, by whom he had ſir Henry Grey, of Wreſt, in the county of Bedford (afterwards earl of Kent); George and Anthony Grey, of Branſpeth, in the biſhopric of Durham, whoſe deſcendants afterwards enjoyed the title; and two daughters.

RICHARD GREY, the eldeſt ſon by the firſt marriage, ſucceeded him in titles and eſtate, being the third Earl of Kent of this family. In the 20th year of the ſame reign he was elected knight of the Garter, and attended king Henry VIII. at the ſiege of Terouenne, in 1513. He married Elizh, daughter of ſir William Huſſey, chief-juſtice of the king's bench, and died in the 15th year of Henry VIII. without iſſue. He was buried at the White Friars, Fleet ſtreet, leaving Elizh his wife ſurviving, who died in the 32d year of the ſame reign, and was buried under her huſband's tomb. Sir William Dacre, lord Grayſtoke, and William Grey, lord Grey of Wilton, on the death of this earl, claimed, as his couſins and heirs general, moſt of his lordſhips, lands, and hereditaments, which lordſhips amounted to ſeventy-three in number.[a] But the earldom, as well as the baronies before mentioned, came to ſir Henry Grey, of Wreſt, his brother of the half blood.

SIR HENRY GREY above mentioned, earl of Kent, and baron Haſtings, Weyſford, and Ruthin, by birthright, not thinking his eſtate ſufficient to ſupport theſe dignities, (for the laſt earl had waſted the greateſt part of it) declined taking on him theſe titles, and having married Anne, daughter of John Blenverhaſſet, of Frenſe, in Norfolk, eſquire, and coheir to her brother John, of Southill, in the county of Bedford, died in the 4th year of queen Elizabeth, and was buried in the church of Saint Giles, without Cripplegate, leaving Henry his ſon and heir, and one daughter.

[a] See a liſt of them, in Harl. MSS. No. 1499-79.

HENRY, the ſon, likewiſe declined taking on him any title, and having married Margaret, daughter of John, and ſiſter of Oliver St. John, of Bletſoe, left by her three ſons, Reginald, Henry, and Charles.

REGINALD, the eldeſt ſon, having by his frugality, greatly recovered his eſtate, reaſſumed the title of Earl of Kent, and baron Haſtings, Weysford, and Ruthin, in the 13th year of queen Elizabeth, by the queen's eſpecial favour, being *the ſixth earl* of this family. He died in the 15th year of that reign, and was buried in Saint Giles's church, without Cripplegate. He married Suſan, daughter of Richard Bertie, eſquire, by Catharine, relict and fourth wife of Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, (afterwards married to Sir John Wingfield) by whom he had no iſſue, ſo that Henry, his brother, ſucceeded him in titles and eſtate. He bore for his arms, quarterly four coats, firſt and fourth Grey of Ruthin, ſecond and third quarterly Haſtings and Valence; for his creſt, *a wivern or*; for his ſupporters, *two wiverns or*.[a]

HENRY, ſeventh Earl of Kent, was, as Camden ſtiles him, a perſon plentifully endowed with all the ornaments of true nobility. He was lord lieutenant of the county of Bedford, and having married Mary, one of the daughters of ſir George Cotton, of Cumbermere, in Cheſhire, widow of Edward earl of Derby, died without iſſue at Wreſt, on January 31, 1614, and lies buried under a noble monument in the chapel adjoining to Flitton church, in Bedfordſhire, which chapel he himſelf had founded.

CHARLES GREY, his next brother, ſucceeded him as Earl of Kent, and lord Haſtings, Weysford, and Ruthen. He married Suſan, daughter of Richard Cotton, of Bedhampton, in the county of Southampton, eſquire, by whom he had a ſon, named Henry, and a daughter Suſan, who became the wife of ſir Mi-

[a] Cooke's Bar. MSS.

chael,

chael, fourth ſon of ſir Henry Lougueville, of Wolverton, in the county of Buckingham, knight, who left by her a ſon, Charles, who, on the death of Henry, earl of Kent, his mother's only brother, without iſſue, after a long diſpute, had the barony of Grey of Ruthin adjudged to him, and was, the 6th of February, 16 Charles I. anno 1640, ſummonded to parliament, as lord Grey of Ruthin, in right of his brother abovementioned. Which Charles, lord Grey, had an only daughter and heir, Suſan, married to ſir Henry Yelverton, anceſtor to the earl of Suſſex, who now enjoys that barony. The earl died on the 26th of September, 1625, at his manor-houſe of Blonham, and lies buried by his brother in the chapel at Flitton.[b]

HENRY GREY, his ſon, ſucceeded him in titles and eſtate, being the ninth Earl of Kent of this family. He married Elizh, the ſecond of the three daughters and coheirs of Gilbert Talbot, earl of Shrewſbury, but died without iſſue, at his houſe in London, on November 21, 1639, and was buried in the ſame chapel adjoining to Flitton church, as was his counteſs afterwards, who died in 1651.

ANTHONY GREY, then rector of the church of Burbache, in the county of Leiceſter, ſon of George, and grandſon of Anthony Grey, of Branſpeth, in the county palatine of Durham, third ſon of George the ſecond earl of Kent of this name, ſucceeded on the death of the laſt earl to his titles, by virtue of the entail on the heirs male, and became the tenth Earl of Kent of this family, and was accordingly ſummoned to parliament, but excuſed himſelf on account of his indiſpoſition and age. He married Magdalen, daughter of William Purefoy, of Caldecot, in the county of Warwick, eſq. by whom he had five ſons, Henry, John, Job, Theophilus, and Nathaniel; and five daughters. He died in the year 1643, and was buried in the church of Burbache.

[b] Dugd. vol. i. p. 718. Coll. Peer. vol. ii. 386.

HENRY GREY, the eldeſt ſon, ſucceeded his father in titles and eſtate. He was twice married, firſt to Mary, daughter of ſir William Courteene, knight, by whom he had one ſon, Henry, lord Grey, who died a youth, and was buried in St. Paul's chapel, in Weſtminſter-abbey, in 1644, near his mother, who had been buried there the year before. His ſecond wife was Amabella, daughter of ſir Anthony Ben, knight, recorder of London, and widow of Anthony Fane, third ſon of Francis, earl of Weſtmoreland, who brought a great fortune and reſtored the luſtre of this decayed family, by whom he had two ſons, Anthony, who ſucceeded him, and Henry, who died in his life-time, and one daughter, Elizh, married to Baniſter Maynard, lord Maynard. He died in 1651, and was buried in the chapel at Flitton, where a monument was erected to his memory by his counteſs, who died in 1698, aged 92 years.

ANTHONY GREY, the eldeſt ſon above-mentioned, twelfth Earl of Kent of this family, married Mary, daughter and ſole heir of John, lord Lucas, baron of Shenfield in Eſſex, who, in conſideration of her father's merits and ſervices, was created baroneſs Lucas of Crudwell in the county of Wilts, on May 7, 1663 anno 13 Car. II. and to her heirs male and female by the earl of Kent. He died Auguſt 19, 1702,[a] and was buried in Flitton church, leaving by his wife, who died Nov. 1ſt following, one ſon and heir, Henry, and a daughter, Amabell.

HENRY GREY, above-mentioned, was the thirteenth Earl of Kent, and took his ſeat as ſuch in the houſe of peers, on October the 20th, 1702, and on the death of his mother, on the 1ſt of November following, ſucceeded to the title of lord Lucas of Crudwell. In 1704 he was conſtituted lord Chamberlain of the queen's houſhold, and ſoon afterwards lord lieutenant of the

[a] See his character, Biog. Brit. vol. iii. p. 1481.

county

county of Hereford, and was ſworn of the privy council. On December 14, 1706, being the fifth year of queen Anne, he was created viſcount Goodrich, of Goodrich-caſtle in the county of Hereford, earl of Harold in the county of Bedford, and *marquis of Kent*, and on the 28th of April, 1710, he was farther advanced to the title of *duke of Kent*. In the year 1711, he was conſtituted lord lieutenant, and *cuſtos rotulorum*, for the county of Bedford; and next year elected knight of the garter. In the firſt year of king George the firſt he was appointed conſtable of Windſor-caſtle; in 1716, lord Steward of the king's houſhold, and in 1718, lord privy ſeal. He married, firſt, Jemima, eldeſt daughter of Thomas, lord Crew of Stene, by Anne his ſecond wife, by whom he had four ſons and ſeven daughters. Of the ſons, Anthony, the eldeſt, ſtiled earl of Harold, was called up by writ to the houſe of peers, by the title of lord Lucas of Crudwell, and married the lady Mary Tufton, fourth daughter of Thomas, earl of Thanet, afterwards married to John, earl Gower. He died in 1723, in his father's life-time, without iſſue. Henry, Lucas, and George, the other ſons, died young. Of the daughters, Amabell, the eldeſt, married John Campbel, viſcount Glenorchy, late earl of Bredalbane, in Scotland, of whom hereafter. Jemima married John, earl of Aſhburnham. Anne married lord Charles Cavendiſh, third ſon of William, duke of Devonſhire.—Mary married the rev. Dr. Gregory, canon of Chriſt church; the others died infants. The duke married, ſecondly, in 1729, Sophia, daughter of William Bentinck, earl of Portland, and by her, who died in 1748, had one daughter, Anne Sophia, married to Dr. John Egerton, ſon of the biſhop of Hereford, and a ſon, George, who died an infant. Amabell, the duke's eldeſt daughter, having married lord viſcount Glenorchy, as above-mentioned, died at Copenhagen in 1726. She had by him one ſon, who died an infant, and one daughter, Jemima, both born in Denmark. This

daughter, Jemima Campbel, being the only ſurviving child of her mother, and being the eldeſt grand-daughter of the duke of Kent, was, in 1740, contracted to the honorable Philip York, eldeſt ſon and heir apparent to Philip, then lord, and afterwards earl of Hardwicke, chancellor of Great Britain; ſoon after which, the duke was created, on May the 9th that year, a marquis, by the title of Marquis Grey, to him and the heirs male of his body, with remainder to Jemima Campbel, his grand-daughter above mentioned, and the heirs male of her body; after which, on May the 22d following the above marriage took place. The duke of Kent died on June the 5th, 1740,[a] being then lord lieutenant and *cuſtos rotulorum* of Bedford, by which the titles of *duke* and *earl* of Kent became extinct, as well as thoſe of earl of Harold, and viſcount Goodrich; but the titles of marchioneſs Grey, and baroneſs Lucas of Crudwell, devolved on the lady Jemima his grand-daughter, wife of the honorable Philip York, above mentioned, afterwards earl of Hardwicke, but ſince deceaſed, by whom ſhe had two daughters. The marchioneſs of Grey bore for her arms, in a *lozenge quarterly, firſt* Campbel, *quarterly firſt and fourth, girony of eight pieces, or and ſable; ſecond argent a galley ſable, with one maſt, ſail furled, and oars in action; third or, a feſs cheque argent and azure.* Second quarter, *barry of ſix pieces argent and azure,* for Grey. Third quarter, *argent a feſs between ſix amulets gules,* for Lucas. Fourth quarter, *azure a lion rampant argent,* for Crew. Her ſupporters, *two wiverns or, their wings diſcloſed.* The duke of Kent bore for his creſt, *a wivern or.*

IT has been already obſerved, that the Saxons, when they divided this realm into provinces, (called in their language *ſhires*, and in Latin, *comitatus*, *i. e.* counties,)

[a] Coll. Peer. vol. ii. p. 388, 390. Collins's Hiſt. Coll. p. 49.

framed

framed the government of them from the antient conſtitution of the Romans, from whom it was derived to them by their German anceſtors,[b] in conformity to which, they conſtituted certain of their chief men to preſide over their ſhires, whom they denominated in their own language, *ealdormen*, (and in Latin, *comites* and *conſules*.) King Alfred, for the more ready adminiſtration of juſtice, allowed theſe ealdormen, or counts, to make deputies, who were called *vice comites*, or *viſcounts*, and in their own tongue, ſheriffs, *i. e.* the ſhyre-reeve, from the Saxon word *gerefa*, or *gereva*, *i. e.* provoſt, præfect, or ſteward, to diſtribute juſtice to the people in their provincial, or county courts. This office of ſheriff is ſuppoſed, by the beſt authorities, to have been conſtituted by that king, when he new modelled this realm into different ſhires and provinces. That it was in being ſoon after may be learnt from Ingulphus, p. 876, where, in a grant of king Edric to Crowland-abbey, about the year 984, mention is made of this *vice-comes*, or ſheriff, among his other miniſters; and afterwards in this ſubſcription—*Ego Alfer vice-comes audivi*. In the ſame author, p. 912, edit. Franckf. one Normannus is mentioned as *vice-comes*, or ſheriff to Edric Streon, ealdorman, or earl of Mercia, who lived about the year 1007. The office of *vice-comes* is mentioned likewiſe in the laws of king Edward the confeſſor.[c] Theſe ealdormen, or, as they were afterwards called by the Danes, *eorlas*, (from which name is derived that of our modern earl) in proceſs of time, either by their ceaſing to be officiary, and becoming merely titular; or, by reaſon of their high employments, and attendance on the king's perſon, not being able to tranſact the buſineſs of that county, were, by his approbation, freed from the trouble, and the ſheriff, who was before only a deputy, and ſubordinate to the

[b] See above, p. xlvi.

[c] See Wilkins, p. 205, and Seldon's Titles of Honor, p. 762.

earl,

earl, as the earl was to the king, became the king's immediate officer in his reſpective county, tranſacting all the king's buſineſs in it: for though the earl reſerved the honour to himſelf, yet the whole labour was laid on the ſheriff, who, notwithſtanding he is ſtill called *vice-comes*, is entirely independent of, and in nothing ſubject to the earl, the king, by his letters patent, committing *cuſtodiam comitatus* to the ſheriff alone.[a] They were uſually men of high rank and great power in the realm, having one or more counties committed to them by the king at his pleaſure, either in cuſtody or at a ferm certain. To them the king uſually committed (together with the counties) his caſtles and manors lying within their bailiwick. They provided the caſtles with ammunition and other neceſſaries, and they ſtocked and improved his manors; in ſhort, the ſheriff was the king's farmer, or bailiff, and the collector of all his rents and revenues within his diſtrict.[b] As ſuch he is called by Ethelwerd, *exactor regis*, i. e. the king's receiver, and by others, *queſtor provinciæ*. His duty was then, as it ſtill is, to do the juſtice of his county, and to keep the public peace, of which he is within it the principal conſervator, in aid of which he has the power of raiſing the *poſſe comitatus*; and as keeper of the king's peace he is, both by common law and by his commiſſion, during his office, the firſt man in the county, and ſuperior in rank to any nobleman therein. As to his judicial capacity, he hears and determines all cauſes, not exceeding forty ſhillings value, in his own court, called the county court, of which more has been mentioned before, and he has alſo a judicial power in ſeveral other civil caſes. In his miniſterial capacity, he executes writs and proceſſes, proclaims

[a] Blackſtone's Com. vol. i. p. 339.
[b] Madox's Excheq. p. 634 and 643.

ſtatutes,

ſtatutes, returns juries, and makes return of writs for electing knights of the ſhire, &c.

In whatever manner the ſheriffs might have been appointed or choſen before the Norman conqueſt; it is certain, from that period they continued to be appointed by the king at his pleaſure, till the latter end of the reign of king Edward I. who, by ſtatute in his 28th year, granted the election of ſheriff to the people of each county, *if they liſt*, as the ſtatute ſays, excepting in thoſe where the ſhrievalty was hereditary, as it ſtill continues to be in the county of Weſtmoreland. Notwithſtanding which, king Edward II. continued to appoint ſheriffs in ſeveral counties, where, I ſuppoſe, the people *did not liſt* to elect them; and in thoſe which did chooſe them, thoſe popular elections grew ſo tumultuous, that they were put an end to by the ſtatute of 9 Edward II. which enacted, that the ſheriffs ſhould from thenceforth be aſſigned by the chancellor, treaſurer, and judges, as perſons in whom that truſt might be with confidence repoſed, from ſuch as had ſufficient lands in the county to anſwer the king and his people. By the ſtatutes of 14 Edward III. 23 Henry VI. and 21 Henry VIII. the chancellor, treaſurer, preſident of the king's council, the chief juſtices, and chief baron, are to make this election, and that on the morrow of All Souls, in the exchequer; and the king's letters patent, appointing the new ſheriffs uſed commonly to bear date the 6th day of November, and the cuſtom now is, and has been, at leaſt ever ſince the reign of Henry VI. for all the judges, together with all the other great officers, to meet in the exchequer chamber on the morrow of All Souls yearly, (which day is now altered to the morrow of St. Martin, by the laſt act for abbreviating Michaelmas term) and then and there propoſe three perſons to the king, who afterwards appoints one of them to be ſheriff. But though this is the general practice, yet frequently, for particular

cular reaſons, the king omits appointing any one of the three perſons ſo propoſed, and ſome time after, by the ſole authority of the crown, appoints one not nominated to him as above, who is called from thence a *pocket ſheriff*, a cuſtom of ſome time ſtanding, and uniformly continued at this day. Sheriffs, by virtue of ſeveral old ſtatutes, are to continue their office but for one year; and yet it has been ſaid, that a ſheriff may be appointed *durante bene placito*, or during the king's pleaſure, and ſo is the form of the royal writ; therefore, till a new ſheriff is named, his office cannot be determined, unleſs by his own death, or the death of the king. And by the ſtatute of 1 Richard II. no man, who has ſerved the office of ſheriff for one year, can be compelled to ſerve the ſame again within three years after.[a] The under-ſheriff uſually performs the duties of the office, a very few only excepted, where the perſonal preſence of the high-ſheriff is neceſſary; for which purpoſe there is a large indenture ſigned and ſealed between him and his under-ſheriff at the time of his entering on his office. The principal perſonal attendance which is required of the high ſheriff of this county is twice a year, at the aſſizes and general goal delivery, held at the county town of Maidſtone, to which he comes on the commiſſion day in great parade of equipage, with his under ſheriff, bailiffs, and other officers, and remains there attendant on the judges, and buſineſs of the aſſizes, till the whole is finiſhed, and the judges have left the town; when he too departs home, leaving the execution of the criminals, and ſuch matters, to the under ſheriff and his officers.

In Hilary term next after the ſheriff is out of office, he and his under ſheriff are ſworn to yield and give a juſt and true account to the king, and his officers, in the exchequer of the king's debts, wherewith

[a] Madox's Excheq. p. 638. Blackſ. Com. vol. i. p. 340 et ſeq.

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he is charged by the green wax of the exchequer, and other particulars which have happened within the compaſs of his office, and of all other profits whatſoever, due and belonging to the king, and chargeable to him to anſwer for; after which he leaves the farther trouble in paſſing his account to the care of his under ſheriff. The tranſacting of which, and obtaining the ſheriff's *quietus*, or diſcharge, became ſo troubleſome and expenſive, from the delays made by the officers concerned in it, and the variety of fees demanded by them, that the legiſlature thought it neceſſary to paſs an act in the 3d year of George I. not only for his greater eaſe in the execution of this office of ſheriff, but for the aſcertaining the fees to be paid by him in ſuing out his patent, and paſſing his accounts, and the preventing the officers and clerks from retarding and hindering the paſſing of them; and the inrolment and delivery of his *quietus* in due time; and for eſtabliſhing a new oath of office, in the room of the old one; and as the *profers* payable at the exchequer by the ſheriff remained then the ſame as they antiently were, though many of the rents and premiſes, out of which they were payable, were alienated from the crown, the lord treaſurer, and great officers of the exchequer, were enabled, at the requeſt of the ſheriff, to reduce and ſettle the ſame to ſuch ſums as they ſhould think juſt and reaſonable, with regard to the amount and value of ſuch rents and certainties at preſent in the county, which, when ſo ſettled, were to be the *profers* payable by the reſpective ſheriff.

The fees allowed by the above act to be taken of the ſeveral ſheriffs by the officers and clerks in the exchequer and chancery, amounted all together to the ſum of four thouſand pounds or thereabouts; and as it was juſtly thought unreaſonable, that the ſheriffs of this kingdom, who were obliged to take upon them that troubleſome and expenſive office for the ſervice

of

of their country, ſhould pay ſo large a ſum themſelves, an act paſſed that year, for ſetting apart the ſum of four thouſand pounds yearly in the exchequer, for paying the expences they were at in ſuing out their patents, paſſing their accounts, and obtaining their *quietus*, according to the ſeveral proportions therein recited, in which the ſum allowed to the ſheriff of Kent is one hundred and eight pounds ten ſhillings; notwithſtanding this allowance, the expence of ſerving the office for this county generally amounts to about three hundred pounds.

There are many inſtances of the great nobility of the kingdom, women as well as men, being in early times appointed to this office, and among them are ſeveral archbiſhops and biſhops, as may be ſeen in the rolls of thoſe times. For example, earl Goſpatrick bought the ſheriffwic of Northumberland of William the Conqueror; Robert earl of Leiceſter had the county of Hereford granted, by king Stephen, to him and his heirs; king Richard I. gave the ſheriff-wick of Yorkſhire to the higheſt bidder; William, biſhop of Ely, the chancellor, offered the king for the ſheriffdom of the counties of York, Lincoln, and Northampton, fifteen hundred marks in hand, and one hundred more *increment*, or increaſe, for thoſe counties above the uſual ferm every year of each; Geoffrey, archbiſhop of York, offered the king for the ſheriffdom of Yorkſhire, only three thouſand marks, and one hundred more *increment*, upon which he was made ſheriff of that county.[a] Henry III. by his letters patent, committed the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk to Hubert de Burgh, chief juſticier of England, during pleaſure, and commanded all perſons therein to be intendant and reſpondent to him as the king's bailiff and ſheriff; and in all letters and precepts directed to the ſheriff, there was an injunction for

[a] Madox's Excheq. p. 634. 635.

all

all archbiſhops, dukes, marquiſes, earls, viſcounts, biſhops, barons, &c. to aſſiſt him in the execution of them, which ſhews the great extent of his authority; but ſince the conſtitution of the office of lord-lieutenant this has been omitted, and his power much abridged.[b] The ſame king, by letters patent, committed the county of Southampton to Peter, biſhop of Wincheſter, and in the 3d year of that king he was accounted as ſheriff of the ſame.[c] Queen Iſabel had the ſheriffwic of Cornwall ſeveral years before, as well as after her huſband, king Edward II.'s death. Margaret, widow of Edward earl of Cornwall held this office in the county of Rutland the laſt five years of king Edward I. and as many of king Edward II. It is ſaid that ſhe was ſheriff fourteen years, as was her huſband, Edmund earl of Cornwall, ſon of Richard, king of the Romans, from the 17th to the 28th, and in the 30th of that reign, but it is not mentioned of what county.[d] And after the next three years Margaret, the wife of Piers Gaveſton, earl of Cornwall, anſwered to king Edward II. the profits of that county. Elizh, counteſs of Saliſbury, had the county of Wiltſhire committed to her the 21ſt of king Henry III. Each of theſe having her ſhire clerk, or ſubſtitute under her. King Henry III. made his ſon, prince Edward, the five laſt years of his reign, ſheriff of Bedford and Buckingham. The Black Prince was often ſheriff of Cornwall under king Edward III. and prince Henry, in the life-time of king Henry IV. was ſheriff of the ſame.[e] William earl of Saliſbury was ſheriff of different counties for ſeveral years during the reign of king John. The earls of Warwick were often ſheriffs of the counties of Warwick and Leiceſter, under king Edward III. and of the county of

[b] Philipott, p. 17. [c] Madox's Exchеq. p. 636.
[d] Philipot, p. 17: Spelman, in his Gloſſary. p. 555.
[e] Philipot, p. 18.

Worceſter

Worceſter moſt part of that reign. Ralph earl of Cheſter, was ſheriff of that county the 1ſt of king Henry III. and of Lancaſhire in the 2d year of the ſame king. Walter, archbiſhop of York, was ſheriff of Nottingham in the 54th and 55th of king Henry III. Hilarius, biſhop of Lincoln, was ſheriff of Lincolnſhire from the 9th to the 13th of that reign; and Hilarius, biſhop of Chicheſter, was ſheriff of Suſſex and Surry in the 8th year of king Henry II. There are many more inſtances of earls, archbiſhops, and biſhops, being ſheriffs of different counties; but thoſe mentioned above are ſufficient to ſhew the dignity and eminence this office was held in. Before the reign of queen Elizabeth, as may be ſeen by the above account, ſome counties were joined with others lying next to them, for the eaſe of the ſervice of the ſheriff; as Suſſex and Surry, Devon and Cornwall, Somerſet and Dorſet, Hants and Wilts, Warwick and Leiceſter, Norfolk and Suffolk, Eſſex and Hertford, Nottingham and Derby, Oxford and Berks, Bucks and Bedford, Cambridge and Huntingdon; ſince which, by reaſon of the increaſe of gentry able to bear the office in them, they have been ſeparated, each county in the realm having now a diſtinct ſheriff to itſelf, excepting the two laſt mentioned.[a]

King Henry VI. in his 18th year, made this title of *vice-comes* or *viſcount*, honorary, and made it a degree of ſtate among the peers of this realm, by creating John lord Beaumont, Viſcount Beaumont, which name and title of *viſcount*, though it is the ſame word as, both in Latin and French, denominated our officiary ſheriff, yet it has not the leaſt connexion with it, being merely honorary.

I ſhall now give a CATALOGUE of the VICE-COMITES or SHERIFFS OF KENT, as they are regiſtered in the Pipe rolls, and other records and evidences.

[a] Act 8th and 13th Elizabeth.

SHERIFFS

## SHERIFFS[b] OF THE COUNTY OF KENT.

OSWARD was the firſt of them that I can find, who held this office in the reign of king William the Confeſſor, as appears by the record of Domeſday, and had then great poſſeſſions in this county.

*Hamo de Crevequer* was Sheriff of Kent in the reign of king William the Conqueror, and is frequently mentioned as ſuch in the book of Domeſday, under the denomination of Hamo *vice comes*, and in many deeds and writings of that time, under that of Hamo *dapifer*, i. e. the king's ſeneſchal or ſteward. He continued ſheriff, as was then not unuſual, during life, which was prolonged beyond the middle of the reign of king Henry II. for in the year 1111, being the 12th of that reign, Hugh, abbot of St. Auſtin's, granted to him the lands of Bodeſham and Smethetun. *Quod ipſe*, as the deed ſays, *ſi opus fuerit, eccleſiæ et mihi, vel ſucceſſoribus meis de predictis in comitatu vel in curia regis contra aliquem baronem, conſulat adjuvet, et ſuccurrat.* At the ſame time Hamo reſtored to that abbey the town of Fordwich in theſe words: *Hamo Cantii vicecomes et Henrici regis Anglorum dapifer timore Dei ductus, reddo, etc.*

*William de Aynsford* ſucceeded Hamo, and continued ſo during the remainder of king Henry I. His arms were, *fretee ermine*, as carved on the roof of the cloiſters at Canterbury.

*Norman Fitz Dering* was Sheriff under king Stephen,[c] as appears by a writ of queen Maud, directed to him. He was a deſcendant of that Dering, who, as the book of Domeſday informs us, held Farning-

[b] The arms of the ſeveral ſheriffs, not deſcribed here, may be found under the ſeveral pariſhes in which they reſided.

[c] Madox's Exchеq. p. 224.

ham in the time of king Edward the Confeſſor. He bore for his arms, *argent a feſs azure*; and having married Matilda, only ſiſter and heir of William de Ipre, earl of Kent, was anceſtor to the Derings of Surrenden.

*Ruallon de Valoignes* in the latter part of king Stephen's reign. He was poſſeſſed of Swerdling in Petham, Repton in Aſhford, and Tremworth in Crundal, at which ſeats he alternately reſided. He had this county in ferm from king Stephen, at the time when moſt, if not all, the counties were let to ferm, at the rent of two hundred and ſixty pounds, *ad penſam*, and ſeventy-ſix pounds and twenty pence, *de numero*. He was likewiſe ſheriff in the firſt year of king Henry II. anno 1154, as appears by the Pipe-office, where the ſheriff's accounts are inrolled.

*Ralph Picot*, from the 2d to the 7th year of the ſame reign incluſive. Adam Picot ſupplied part of this laſt year, and Hugh de Dover the reſt.

*Hugh de Dover*, ſon of Fulbert de Dover, who held the caſtle of Chilham, and other Kentiſh fees for his ſupport, in the defence of Dover caſtle, was ſheriff from the 8th to the 11th of that reign incluſive. He dwelt ſometimes at Chilham caſtle and ſometimes at Kingſton.[a]

*Richard de Luci*, in the 13th year of the ſame reign.[b]

*Gervas de Cornhill*, from the 16th to the 20th year of king Henry II. incluſive, his ſeat being at Lukedale, in Littlebourn. Reginald de Warren was joined with him in the 16th year.[c] In the year 1170, king Henry II. kept his Eaſter at Windſor, whence he came to London, and there put out of office moſt of the ſheriffs of England, and put them to ranſom[d] for

[a] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 461.
[b] Madox's Excheq. p. 136.
[c] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 83.
[d] Madox's Excheq. p. 12.

miſdemeanors.

miſdemeanors. In the 21ſt year of this reign Robert Fitzbernard was joined with him in his office.

*Robert Fitzbernard* above-mentioned, exerciſed this office alone, from the end of the above year to the 30th of that reign. His capital manſion was at Kingſdown, near Wrotham.

*William Fitznigel de Muneville* in the 30th year of it; and William Fitz Philip was joined with him. This family of De Muneville were lords of Folkeſtone.

*Allan de Valoignes (de Tremworth)* from the 30th to the end of king Henry II. His reſidence, according to the cuſtom of his anceſtors, was ſometimes at Tremworth, and ſometimes at Repton and Swerdling.

*Henry de Cornhill*, ſon of Gervas above-mentioned, in the 1ſt, 2d, and 3d years of king Richard I.'s reign. His ſeat was at Lukedale.

*Reginald*, ſon of Gervas de Cornhill, from the 4th to the 9th year of that reign inclusive, and in the laſt year of it.

*Gervas de Cornhill*, in the 4th year of king John.[e]

*Reginald de Cornhill*, from the 11th of that reign[f] during the remainder of it; in the 12th year of which John Fitz Vinon, of Haringe in Sellindge, was joined with him in the execution of this office. His ſeat was at Minſter, in Thanet, which was, from his being ſo conſtantly ſheriff, denominated Sheriff's Court, which name it retains at this day; nay, from this circumſtance, his own name was diſcontinued, and he was called *Reginald le Viſcount*, and his relict, in a grant of land to the chapel of Lukedale, is ſtiled in the deed, *Vicecomitiſſa Cantii*. He bore for his arms, *Two lions paſſant, debruiſed with a bendlet*, as may be ſeen on the roof of Canterbury cloiſters.

[e] Madox's Exchеq. p. 194. [f] Ibid. p. 225.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY III.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1216.

*Hubert de Burgh*, that great ſubject, who was afterwards earl of Kent and conſtable of Dover caſtle, from the 1ſt to the 7th of it incluſive, during which time Hugh de Windleſore, of Warehorn, was joined with him as his aſſiſtant. Hubert had this county in ferm. He was juſtice itinerant at the time he was ſheriff, notwithſtanding it had been ordained otherwiſe in the 1ſt of Richard I.[a] In the 8th year Roger Grimſtone was joined as an aſſiſtant with him, and continued ſo the two next years. In the 11th year of that reign William Brito was joined with him, and continued his aſſiſtant in that office till the 17th year of it.[b]

*Bertram de Criol*, lord of Oſtenhanger, and conſtable of Dover-caſtle, from the 17th to the 22d, and ſo on till the end of the firſt half of the 23d year of it, whoſe grandſon was uſually ſtiled the Great Lord of Kent, on account of the great poſſeſſions in this county, which accrued to him in right of his wife. Alianore, one of the daughters, and at length coheir of Hamon de Crevequer, lord of Leeds caſtle, and of Maud his wife, daughter and heir of William de Averenches, lord of Folkeſtone.

*Humphry de Bohun*, earl of Hereford and Eſſex, for the laſt half of the 23d of it, and for the two years following. He was at that time poſſeſſed of the manor of Bilſington.

*Peter de Saubaudia (or of Savoy)* being earl of Savoy, and uncle, by the mother's ſide, to Alianore, wife to king Henry III. was made earl of Richmond, in Yorkſhire, and lord warden of the cinque ports. He dwelt in the Strand, in London, at the houſe ſince

[a] Madox's Excheq. p. 225 and 640. [b] Philipott, p. 20.

called,

called, from him, the Savoy. He was ſheriff of Kent in the 26th year of king Henry III. and Bertram de Criol was joined with him.

*Bertram de Criol* above mentioned, who had been ſheriff before, in the former part of this reign, held this office in the 27th year of it, and John de Cobham was joined with him that year, and he held it alone from the 27th to the end of the 32d year of it.

*Reginald de Cobham*, ſon of Henry, from the beginning of the 33d to the end of the 40th year of it. In the 41ſt year Walter de Berſted (afterwards conſtable of Dover caſtle) was joined with him; in the 42d he executed it alone, in which year he died, and Roger de Northwood, and his other executors, anſwered for the profits due from him.[c] After which Hugh de Montford, the king's nephew, is ſaid, by Pat. 48, memb. 12, to have had the cuſtody of the county of Kent, and the hundred of Middleton, granted to him for the remainder of the year, after Reginald de Cobham's death, whoſe executors only anſwered for certain ferm and profits due from him to the king, on account of his late office.

*Fulk Peyforer*, in the 43d year of this reign. His ſeat was ſometimes at North-court in Eaſling, and ſometimes at Colebridge-caſtle in Boughton Malherbe. His arms, *Argent ſix fleurs de lis azure*, are ſtill remaining on the roof of the cloiſters in Canterbury.

*John de Cobham*, eldeſt ſon of John de Cobham before mentioned, by the daughter of Warine Fitz Benedict, his firſt wife, in the 44th year of it. He ſerved the firſt part of the 45th, and Robert Walleran ſerved the reſt, and Walter de Redmaredg was under him.

*John de Cobham* was likewiſe ſheriff in the 46th and 47th years of this reign, and Robert Walleran and Thomas Delaway were under him. His ſeat was at

[c] Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 65.

Monkton in Thanet. He bore for his arms, as all his deſcendants did, *Gules on a chevron or, three lions rampant ſable.*

*Roger de Leyborne*, in the 48th year of it, and Fulk Peyforer had the cuſtody of the county the latter part of that year, and three parts of the 49th year. Roger de Leyborne was ſheriff again in the 50th year, and John de Bourne was joined with him, and ſo continued till the 52d year of it, and Fulk de Peyforer had the cuſtody of the county again the laſt three parts of that year. His ſeat was at Leyborne caſtle.

*Stephen de Penchefter*, the 53d and two following years, and Henry de Leeds was his aſſiſtant or ſhire clerk. He was conſtable of Dover caſtle and warden of the five ports. His ſeat was at Penſhurſt.

*Henry Malmains*, of Pluckly and Walderſhare, in the 56th year of it, being the laſt of this reign.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD I.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1272.

*Henry Malmains* above mentioned, continued ſheriff part of the 1ſt year, when he died, and John his ſon anſwered for the profits of the county for the firſt half year, and William de Hever ſerved the office the other half of the year. In this year the king ſent his letters to the ſheriffs of the ſeveral counties, to make proviſion for his coronation, to be delivered to his conſtable of his caſtle of Windſor by Eaſter-eve at fartheſt; among others, the Sheriff of this county was to furniſh within his diſtrict, to be approved of by the bearer of theſe letters, forty oxen and cows, forty hogs, two boars, forty live and fat muttons, two thouſand and one hundred capons and hens, and twenty-five bacons, the coſt to be paid at the king's exchequer. Dated 10th of February 1274.[a] In the

[a] Clauſ. 2 Ed. I. h. 13. Rym. Fœd. vol. ii. p. 21.

ſame

ſame manner, as occaſion required, writs were ſent to the ſheriffs for proviſions for the king's houſehold at the meeting of the parliament and other feſtivities. They were a kind of purveyors to the king for even cloaths, furniture, or whatever elſe he wanted.[b] The arms of Henry Malmains were, *Gules three right hands couped argent*, as may be learnt from the quarterings in the coat armour of the Derings of Surrenden.

*William de Hever* above mentioned, of Hever caſtle, continued on in the beginning of the 2d year of this reign, and William Haute of Petham ſerved the remainder of it.[c]

*William de Valoignes*, of Swerdling and Repton, from the 3d to the 6th year of it incluſive, though part of the laſt year was ſupplied by Henry Perot, of Knowlton.[d]

*Robert Scotton*, from the 7th to the 10th of this reign incluſive, in which laſt year he died, and Robert his ſon accounted for the remainder of that year. He kept his ſhrievalty at Cheriton.

*Peter de Huntingfield*, of Huntingfield, a manor in Eaſling, ſo called from this family, in the 11th, 12th, and 13th years. His principal ſeats were, the above manor, and Weſt Wickham, in this county. He bore for his arms, *Or a feſs gules between three torteauxes.*

*Hamon de Gatton*, of Throwley, in the 14th year. His arms, as formerly in a window in the church of Selling, were, *Chequy azure and argent.*

*William de Chellesfield*, ſo named from the manor of Chellesfield, of which he and his anceſtors had been many years poſſeſſed, in the 15th, 16th, and 17th years of this reign.

[b] Madox's Hiſt. Excheq. p. 234 et ſeq.
[c] Kilburne, p. 390. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 14.
[d] Philipott, p. 21.

*William de Bramſhott*, ſo named of a place in Hampſhire, of which he and his anceſtors were lords, in the 18th and 19th years.

*Sir John de Northwood*, ſon of ſir Roger Northwood, of Northwood, in Milton, in the 20th year of this reign, for the latter part of which Richard de Cumbe, and Simon de Cumbe, his ſon and heir, ſerved for him. In the 21ſt year he was ſheriff again, and John de Bourne was joined with him.

*John de Bourne*, of Sharſted, in Doddington, had the cuſtody of this county in the 22d, 23d, and 24th years of it.

*William Truſſell* was ſheriff in the 25th and 26th years.

*Henry de Apulderfield*, of Apulderfield, now called Apperfield, in Cowdham, ſerved the latter part of the 26th year, but was ſheriff alone in the 27th.

*Sir John de Northwood* above mentioned was again ſheriff in the 28th year.

*Henry de Cobham*, of Roundal, in Shorne, younger brother of ſir John de Cobham, lord of Cobham, in the 29th, 30th, and part of the 31ſt years of this reign, in which laſt year the barons of the Exchequer appointed Elias de Morton, of Doddingdale, in Canterbury, to ſerve in his ſtead. This Henry de Cobham is frequently written in old rolls, Henry Cobham le Uncle, becauſe ſurviving his brother, he was uncle to Henry lord Cobham.

*Wareſius de Valoyns*, as the name then began to be ſpelt, of Tremworth, the latter part of the 31ſt and in the 32d year of it.

*Sir John Northwood* was again ſheriff in the 33d and 34th of it.

*William de Coſenton*, of Coſenton, in Aylesford, in the 35th year, whoſe arms are carved on the roof of the cloiſters at Canterbury.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD II.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1307.

*Sir Henry de Cobham*, of Roundal, in Shorne, was again ſheriff in the 1ſt year.

*John le Blund*, of Sundridge place, in Bromley, in the 2d, 3d, and 4th years, and dying in the 5th, when he was likewiſe ſheriff, Edward his ſon ſerved out the remainder of the year for him, and continued in the office part of the year following.

*William de Baſing*, of Kenardington, who is in the roll of thoſe knights who accompanied king Edward I. in his victorious expedition into Scotland, was ſheriff in the 7th year of this reign, and John de Handloe, the younger, of Courtopſtreet, in Limne, was joined with him. This William was alſo ſheriff the next year, during which he died, and Margaret, his widow, accounted for the profits of it, as the Pipe-rolls inform us.

*Sir Henry de Cobham* again, in the 9th year.

*John de Malmains*, of Malmains, in Stoke, in the 10th and part of the 11th year, the year after which he was committed priſoner to the Fleet, *quia abſentavit ſe de compoto ſuo.*

*John Fremingham*, of Fremingham, now Farningham, the laſt half of the 11th year, and for three parts of the 12th year, when Henry de Sarden was joined as an aſſiſtant with him. He bore for his arms, *Argent a feſs gules, between three Corniſh choughs ſable*, as on the roof of the cloiſters at Canterbury.

*William Septvans*, ſon and heir of ſir Robert Septvans, whoſe ſeat was at Milton, near Canterbury, part of the 13th and in the 14th year of this reign, and Henry de Sarden was his aſſiſtant. He continued in the 15th and part of the 16th, and Ralph Savage, of Milſted, was joined with him, whoſe arms are remaining on the roof of the cloiſters at Canterbury.

*John*

*John de Shelving*, ſon of Thomas de Shelving, of Wodenſborough, part of the 16th and part of the 17th year, and John de Fremingham was his aſſiſtant in it. Which

*John de Fremingham* ſerved the office alone the remainder of thoſe years, as he did entirely the 18th and part of the 19th of the reign of this unfortunate prince, and Ralph de St. Laurence ſerved out the reſidue for him. Thomas de Toniford accounted for the profits of his office for him.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD III. WHO BEGUN HIS REIGN IN 1326.

*Ralph de St. Laurence* was ſheriff in the 1ſt year of this reign.

*William de Orlanſton*, in the 2d year, as well as the next following, when John de Shelving above mention was joined with him. His arms were, *Two chevrons on a canton a lion paſſant*, in imitation of the Criols, his lords paramount.

*John de Shelving* abovementioned was ſheriff alone in the 4th year, but died within it, as appears by the inquiſition taken after his death, and John de Walmer ſupplied the reſt of the year for him.

*Roger de Raynham* ſerved part of the 5th year of this reign, and John de Bourn ſerved the remainder.

*Thomas de Brockhull*, of Brockhull, in Saltwood, in the 6th year, and Laurence de St. Laurence ſerved as his aſſiſtant for part of the year, but in the 7th year Thomas de Brockhull ſerved the office alone, whoſe arms are on the cloiſters at Canterbury, and in ſeveral churches in this county.

*Stephen de Cobham*, of Roundal, in Shorne, ſon and heir of Henry de Cobham le Uncle above mentioned, in the 8th, 9th, and 10th of this reign.

*Thomas de Brockhull* above mentioned ſheriff again in the 11th year.

*William*

*William Morant* of Morant's court, in Chevening, in the 12th and 13th years of this reign. During his ſhrievalty the king iſſued a mandate to him, to take care that but one bell ſhould be rung in any ſteeple towards the ſea coaſt in this county.

*Henry de Valoyns* of Repton, in Aſhford, in the 14th year.

*John de Mereworth* of Mereworth caſtle, in the 15th year, as he was in the 16th, when John de Vielſton, now Filſon, in Shoreham, was joined with him.

*John de Vielſton* beforementioned, from the 16th to the 20th year inclusive.

*William de Langley*, of Knolton, in the 21ſt year. His arms are on the roof of the cloiſters in Canterbury, and the windows of ſeveral churches in this county.

*John de Fremingham* before mentioned, again in the 22d year, and Richard Stone was his deputy.

*William de Langley*, of Knolton, again from the 23d to the 25th inclusive, and part of the 26th, and Arnold Savage of Bobbing, ſerved part of that year for him.

*James de la Pine* part of the 26th and part of the 27th year, which Stephen Brode kept for him. He was poſſeſſed of Helburgh, in Reculver, and Eaſthall, in Murſton, in which laſt he kept his ſhrievalty.

*William Apulderfield* of Bedmancore, in Linſted, deſcended from thoſe of Cowdham, part of the 27th, and entirely the 28th year. He bore the ſame arms as thoſe of Cowdham.

*Reginald de Dike*, of Sheldwich, in the 29th year. He married Lora, widow of Sampſon At-leeze, and by having the guardianſhip of his children, much improved his own eſtate, and purchaſed lands in Shepey and Sheldwich in this county, and in Rutlandſhire. He lies buried in Sheldwich church.

*Gilbert de Hells*, of Hells'-court, in Aſh, and of St. Margaret Hells, in Darent, in the 30th year. He

was

was ſon of Betram de Hells, lieutenant of Dover caſtle, under Reginald de Cobham. His arms, *ſable a bend argent*, are carved on the roof of Canterbury cloiſters.

*William de Apulderfield* again, in the 31ſt year.

*Ralph de Fremingham*, of Fremingham, in the 32d year.

*William Makenade* of Makenade houſe, in Preſton, near Faverſham, in the 33d year, at the end of which he died. He kept his ſhrievalty at Makenade.

*William de Apulderfield* again, in the 34th, and two next years.

*William Pimpe* of Pimpe's court, in Nettleſted, in the 37th year.

*William de Apulderfield* again, in the 38th year.

*Jeffery Colepeper* of Bayhall, in Pembury, and Preſton, in Aylesford, part of the 39th year. His arms are ſtill remaining in the windows of many of the churches in this county, and on the roof of the cloiſters in Canterbury.

*John Colepeper* of Bayhall, the other part of the 39th and the whole of the 40th year.

*Sir Richard At-leeze* of Leeze-court, in Sheldwich, in the 41ſt year. His arms were placed in Sheldwich church.

*John Brockhull* of Brockhull, in Saltwood, in the 42d year.

*John Colepeper* of Bayhall, again, in the 43d year.

*William Pimpe* of Pimpe's-court, again, in the 45th year.

*John Barrey* of the Moat, in Sevington, in the 46th year. His arms are on the roof of the cloiſters in Canterbury.

*Jeffrey Colepeper* of Preſton, in Aylesford, in the 47th year.

*Robert Nottingham* of Bayford, in Sittingbourn, in the 48th year, and kept his ſhrievalty at the above place, in which year he died; Richard de Southwell ſerved

erved the remainder of it for him. His arms were, *Paly wavy of four pieces, gules and argent.*

*William Pimpe* again ſerved the office in the 49th ear, but died before the end of it, and Reginald his on ſerved the remainder of it for him.

*Nicholas at Crouch*, of Great Chart, ſo named from is habitation near the Croſs, in the 50th year.

*Henry de Apulderfield* of Otterpley, in Challock, in he 51ſt year, in which year this victorious prince ied.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING RICHARD II.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1377.

*Thomas de Cobham* of Roundal, in Shorne, in the 1ſt ear, and William de Modyngham was his deputy.

*John de Fremingham*, of Fremingham, or Farning-am, as it is now called, in the 2d year.

*James de Peckham* of Yaldham, in Wrotham, in the d year.

*William Septvans* of Milton Septvans, near Canter-ury, in the 4th year, and kept his ſhrievalty there.

*Arnold Savage* of Bobbing-court, near Sittingbourn, here he had a caſtellated houſe, in the 5th year, and as a man of great note in his time. His arms are n the roof of Canterbury cloiſters, and in ſeveral hurches in this county.

*Thomas Brockhull* of Calehill, in Little Chart, in e 6th and 7th years.

*Robert Corbie* of Boughton Malherbe, in the 8th year.

*Arnold Savage* of Bobbing, again in the 9th year.

*Ralph St. Leger* of Ulcombe, in the 10th year, hoſe arms are on the roof of the cloiſters at Canter-ury, and painted in the windows of ſeveral churches this county.

*William Guldeford* of Hemſted, in Benenden, in the th year. His arms are carved on the roof of the oiſters in Canterbury.

*James*

*James de Peckham* of Yaldham above mentioned, again in the 12th year.

*William Burceſton* of Burſton, in Hunton, deſcended out of the county of Southampton, in the 13th year.

*Richard de Berham*, ſon of Henry de Berham, of Berham-court, in Teſton, in the 14th year.

*Thomas Chiche* of the Dungeon, near Canterbury, whoſe arms may be ſeen carved in ſtone in the church of St. Mary Bredin, in Canterbury, and on a braſs plate in Milton church, near Sittingbourn.

*William Barrey*, ſon of John above mentioned, and likewiſe of the Moat, in Sevington, in the 16th year.

*John de Fremingham* above mentioned was again ſheriff part of the 17th year, and Thomas Colepeper of Pembury, ſerved the remainder of it.

*Thomas Colepeper* above mentioned continued all the 18th year.

*Nicholas Haut* of Wadenhall, in Stelling, in the 19th year, and kept his ſhrievalty there. His arms were, *Or, a croſs engrailed gules*, as on the roof of the cloiſters of Canterbury, and in many of the neighbouring churches.

*Thomas St. Leger* of Otterden, in the 20th year.

*Nicholas Potin*, who reſided at Queen-court, in Oſpringe, and kept his ſhrievalty there, was ſheriff in the 21ſt year.

*John Boteler* of Gravenny, in the 22d year, being the laſt of king Richard's reign. His arms were, *Sable, three cups covered or, a bordure of the ſecond*, as may be ſeen in Milton, by Sittingbourn, and Graveny churches.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY IV.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1399.

*Robert Clifford* of Bobbing, in the 1ſt year.

*Thomas Lodelow*, deſcended out of Wiltſhire, in the 2d year, but died before the end of it, and John Digg-

Digg, of Digg's-court, in Barham, diſcharged the office for the remainder of the year, whoſe arms may be ſeen in the roof of the cloiſters in Canterbury, as well as in many churches in this county.

*Thomas Chiche* of the Dungeon, in St. Mary Bredin's pariſh, Canterbury, in the 3d year.

*Richard Clitherow* of Goldſtanton, in Aſh, near Sandwich, who was conſtituted admiral of the ſeas, from the Thames mouth weſtward, was ſheriff in the 4th year and moſt part of the 5th.

*Thomas Swinbourne*, owner of ſeveral eſtates in the county of Eſſex, in the 6th year, and kept his ſhrievalty at Thevegate, in Smeeth,

*Michael Horn* of Horn's-place, in Appledore, in the 7th year, and kept his ſhrievalty there.

*Edward Haut* of Haut's place, in Petham, and of Bourne, in the 8th year.

*William Snaith* of Addington, in the 9th year.

*Reginald Pimp* of Pimp's court, in Eaſt Farleigh, ſon of William Pimp of Nettleſted, in the 10th year.

*John Darell* of Calehill, in Little Chart, a younger branch of thoſe at Seſay, in Yorkſhire, who was ſteward to archbiſhop Chicheley, and elder brother to ſir William Darell, under treaſurer of England, was ſheriff in the 11th year.

*William Notbeame*, deſcended out of Suffolk, where his family was of gentility, but whoſe reſidence was at Aſh, near Sandwich, in the 12th year, and in the 7th year of king Henry V. was returned among thoſe who were ſaid, *portare arma antiqua.*

*William Cheney* of Shurland, in Shepey, in the 13th year, being the laſt of king Henry IV. He bore for his arms, *Argent, on a bend ſable, three mullets or*, being his own paternal arms, and alſo the additional coat of Shurland, being *Azure, ſix lioncels rampart argent, three, two, and one, a canton ermine*, which laſt coat is carved on the roof of the cloiſters in Canterbury.

SHERIFFS

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY V.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1412.

*William Cheney* above mentioned continued the 1ſt year.

*Robert Clifford* beforementioned, again in the 2d and 3d years.

*William Langley* of Knolton, in the 4th year.

*John Darell* of Calehill before mentioned, again in the 5th year.

*Richard Clitherow* of Aſh, again in the 6th year.

*John Burgh* of Etonbridge, in the 7th year. During whoſe ſhrievalty there came a ſpecial writ to him from the king, commanding him to elect out of the moſt fit and able knights and eſquires of the county, that bore arms from antiquity, twelve of the moſt ſufficient, to ſerve as lances for the defence of the kingdom.

*William Haut* of Hautſborne, ſome part of the 8th and all the 9th year.

*John Darell* of Calehill, in the 10th year, being the laſt in king Henry V.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY VI.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1422.

*John Darell* of Calehill was continued the 1ſt year.

*William Cheney* of Shurland, in the 2d year.

*John Rykeld* of Eſlingham, in Friendſbury, in the 3d year, and kept his ſhrievalty there.

*William Clifford* of Bobbing, again in the 4th year.

*William Colepeper* of Preſton, in Aylesford, ſon of ſir John Colepeper, in the 5th year.

*Thomas Ellis* of Burton, in Kenington, in the 6th year.

*William Scott* of Scott's-hall, in Smeeth, in the 7th year.

*John Peche* of Lullingſtone, in the 8th year.

*John*

*John St. Leger* of Ulcombe, in the 9th year.

*John Guldeford* of Halden, alias Lambin, in Rolvenden, in the 10th year.

*William Bures* of Halſted, in the 11th year.

*Richard Woodvile* of the Moat, near Maidſtone, in the 12th year.

*William Clifford* of Bobbing and Shorne, of whom mention is made before, again in the 13th year.

*William Manſton* of Manſton, in Thanet, in the 14th year, and kept his ſhrievalty there. His arms are carved on the roof of the cloiſters at Canterbury, and in Aſhford church.

*James Fienes*, ſecond ſon of ſir William Fienes, of Kempſing and Seal, in the 15th year. Two years after which he was ſheriff of Surry and Suſſex, and in the 25th of this reign he was ſummoned to parliament as lord Say and Seale, and was afterwards conſtituted lord treaſurer of England.

*Richard Waller* of Groombridge, in Speldhurſt, who took the duke of Orleans priſoner at Agincourt, was ſheriff in the 16th year.

*Edward Guldeford* of Halden, in Rolvenden, in the 17th year.

*Gervas Clifton*, who married Iſabel, widow of William Scott, and lived upon her eſtate at Braborn, where he lies buried, in the 18th year. His arms were, *Sable ſeme of cinquefoils and a lion rampant argent.*

*John Yerde* of Denton, near Eleham, in the 19th year.

*John Warner* of Foot's Cray, in the 20th year.

*William Maries*, who lived at Uſton, in Tunſtall, in the 21ſt year. He was eſquire to Henry V. and was interred in Preſton church, near Faverſham.

*Sir Thomas Brown*, treaſurer of the houſehold to king Henry VI. and anceſtor to the late viſcount Montague, in the 22d year.

*William Cromer* of Tunſtall, in the 23d year. He married Elizh, daughter of James lord Say and Seale,

lord treaſurer, and was barbarouſly murdered by Jack Cade, and his rebellious route, as he was oppoſing their entrance into London.

*John Thornbury* of Faverſham, in the 24th year. His arms were, *Argent, on a bend engrailed ſable three plates ermine.*

*William Iſley* of Sundridge, in the 25th year.

*William Kene*, who reſided at Welhall, in Eltham, in right of Agnes his wife, widow of John Tatterſall, in the 26th year.

*Stephen Slegge* of Wouldham, in the 27th year. He was a good benefactor to the above mentioned church.

*Henry Cromer*, ſecond ſon of William Cromer above mentioned, in the 28th year.

*Gervas Clifton* before mentioned, again in the 29th year.

*Robert Horne* of Horne's-place, in Apledore, in the 30th year.

*Thomas Ballard* of Horton Parva, near Canterbury, in the 31ſt year.

*John Fogge* of Repton, in Aſhford, in the 32d year. His arms were, *Argent, on a feſs between three amulets ſable, three mullets of the firſt pierced*, as they are carved and painted in ſeveral churches in this county, and on the roof of the cloiſters at Canterbury.

*Sir John Cheney* of Shurland, in the 33d year.

*Philip Belknap* of the Moat, near Canterbury, in the 34th year.

*Alexander Iden* of Weſtwell, who ſlew Jack Cade, and married the widow of William Cromer, ſlain before by that rebel, was ſheriff in the 35th year.

*John Guldeford* of Halden, in Rolvenden, in the 36th year. He was afterwards Comptroller of the houſehold to king Edward IV. and was knighted by king Richard III. at his coronation, and was admitted by king Henry VII. of his privy council.

*Sir Gervas Clifton* before mentioned, again in the 37th year.

*Sir Thomas Brown* of Beechworth caſtle, in Surry, again in the 38th year.

*John Scott* of Scott's-hall, in the 39th, and laſt year of the reign of king Henry VI. He was afterwards knighted by king Edward IV. and made a privy-counſellor, deputy of Calais, and comptroller of his houſehold.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD IV.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1460.

*John Iſaac*, eſq. of Howlets, in Bekeſbourne, in the 1ſt year.

*Sir William Peche* of Lullingſtone, in the 2d and 3d years, when he had likewiſe the cuſtody of the caſtle of Canterbury annexed to his office, as the following record informs us — *Rex conceſſit Willielmo Peche militi totum comit. Cantii una cum caſtro Cantuar. ac conſtituit eum vice-comitem Cantii, ac ei conceſſit* 40 *libras annuas quouſque ei dederit* 40 *libras annuas in ſpeciali tallio & heredibus maſculis. Pat.* 2 *Edw.* 4*ta. parte* 2*da.*

*John Diggs*, eſq. of Digg's-court, in Barham, in the 4th year.

*Alexander Clifford*, eſq. of Bobbing-court, ſon of Lewis Clifford, eſq. in the 5th year.

*Sir William Haut* of Hautſbourn, ſon of William Haut and Elizh his wife, ſiſter to Richard Woodvile earl Rivers, and aunt to Elizh, queen to king Edward IV. in the 6th year.

*Sir John Colepeper* of Pembury and Goudhurſt, in the 7th year.

*Ralph St. Leger*, eſq. of Ulcombe, in the 8th year.

*Sir Henry Ferrers* of Eaſt Peckham, deſcended out of Warwickſhire, in the 9th year. He married Margaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Hextal of Hextal-place, in that pariſh.

*John Brumpton*, eſq. of Preſton, near Faverſham, in the 10th year. He bore, *Barry of ſix pieces, a chief vaire*, and lies buried in Faverſham church.

*Richard Colepeper*, eſq. of Oxenhoath, in Little Peckham, in the 11th year.

*James Peckham*, eſq. of Yaldham, in Wrotham, in the 12th year.

*Sir John Fogge* of Repton, in Aſhford, in the 13th year, who was ſometime comptroller of the houſehold.

*John Iſley*, eſq. of Sundridge, couſin and heir-general of William Iſley, who was ſheriff in the reign of king Henry VI. ſerved this office in the 14th year.

*Sir William Haut* of Hautſbourne, formerly mentioned, again in the 15th year.

*John Green*, eſq. who reſided at Scadbury, in Chiſelhurſt, in right of his wife Conſtance, widow of ſir Thomas Walſingham, in the 16th year. His arms were, *Gules, a croſs-croſlet ermine, within a bordure gobony argent and ſable*

*William Cheney*, eſq. of Shurland, in the 17th year.

*Richard Haut*, eſq. of the Moat, in Ightham, a younger brother of ſir William Haut above mentioned, in the 18th year.

*Richard Lee* of Great Delce, near Rocheſter, in 19th year.

*Sir John Fogge* of Repton, before mentioned, again in the 20th year.

*Sir George Brown* of Beechworth caſtle, ſon of ſir Thomas, in the 21ſt year.

*Richard Haut*, eſq. of the Moat, in Ightham, again in the 22d and laſt year of his reign, after he had been three years from the office, as the ſtatute directs.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD V.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1483.

*Sir William Haut* of Hautſbourne, who had been twice before in the former reign, was now ſheriff again;

again; that is, from Michaelmas, in the laſt year of king Edward IV. to the 9th of April, the day on which king Edward V. began his reign, and from thence to the 22d of June, the day of king Richard's being proclaimed; a few days after which ſir Henry Ferrers was placed in this office, and continued in it till the Michaelmas following.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING RICHARD III.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1483.

*John Bamme*, eſq. of the Grange, in Gillingham, deſcended from Adam Bamme, lord-mayor of London, in the 2d year.

*Sir Robert Brackenbury* of the Moat, in Ightham, in the 3d year.

*William Cheney*, eſq. of Shurland, the next year, in which king Richard died.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY VII.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1485.

*William Cheney*, eſq. above mentioned, continued in this office the remaining part of the year.

*John Pimpe*, eſq. of Pimpe's court, in Eaſt Farleigh, in the 2d year.

*Sir Henry Ferrers*, of Eaſt Peckham, before mentioned, again in the 3d year.

*Walter Roberts*, eſq. of Glaſſenbury, in Cranbrook, in the 4th year.

*Sir William Boleyne* of Hever-caſtle, ſon of ſir Geoffrey Boleyne, lord-mayor of London, in the 5th year.

*Sir William Scott* of Scott's-hall, which he new built, ſon and heir of ſir John Scott, in the 6th year.

*John Darell*, eſq. of Cale-hill, in the 7th year. He was eſquire of the body to king Henry VII. and captain of the launciers in that part of the county. His eſtate had been ſeized on by king Richard, for holding

ing a correſpondence with that prince, by whom, on his coming to the crown, it was again reſtored, with ſeveral other manors.

*Thomas Kempe*, eſq of Ollantigh, near Wye, in the 8th year.

*Sir Richard Guldeford* of Halden, in Rolvenden, in the 9th year, who was knighted at Milton-haven, and made a banneret at Blackheath.

*John Peche*, eſq. of Lullingſtone, in the 10th year, who was afterwards knighted.

*John Digg*, eſq. of Digg's-court, in Barham, in the 11th year.

*Sir James Walſingham* of Scadbury, in Chiſelhurſt, in the 12th year.

*Lewis Clifford*, eſq. of Bobbing-court, in the 13th year.

*Robert Wotton*, eſq. of Boughton Malherbe, in the 14th year, afterwards knighted, and made comptroller of Calais.

*Alexander Colepeper*, eſq. of Bedgbury, in the 15th year, afterwards knighted.

*Thomas Iden*, eſq. of Weſtwell, in the 16th year.

*Sir William Scott* of Scott's-hall, above-mentioned, again in the 17th year.

*Ralph St. Leger*, eſq. of Ulcombe, and heir of Ralph St. Ledger, eſq. in the 18th year.

*William Cromer*, eſq. of Tunſtall, in the 19th year, afterwards knighted.

*John Langley*, eſq. of Knolton, in the 20th year.

*Sir Thomas Kempe*, K. B. of Ollantigh, in the 21ſt year.

*Sir Alexander Colepeper* of Bedgbury, before mentioned, again in the 22d year.

*Henry Vane*, eſq. of Tunbridge, ſecond ſon of John Vane of that place, in the 23d year.

*Reginald Peckham*, eſq. of Yaldham, in the 24th, being the laſt year of king Henry VII.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY VIII.

WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1509.

*Sir William Cromer* of Tunſtall, in the 1ſt year.

*James Digge*, eſq. of Digge's-court, in Barham, in the 2d year.

*Sir Thomas Boleyne* of Hever-caſtle, in the 3d year. He was afterwards, in the 15th of this reign, made knight of the Garter, and treaſurer of the king's houſehold; two years after which he was created viſcount Rochford, and in the 21ſt, earl of Wiltſhire and Ormond.

*Sir Thomas Kempe*, K. B. above mentioned, again in the 4th year.

*Sir John Norton* of Northwood, in Milton, in the 5th year.

*Sir Alexander Colepeper* of Bedgbury, in the 6th year.

*Thomas Cheney*, eſq. of Shurland, in the 7th year, afterwards made knight of the Garter.

*Sir William Scott*, K. B. before mentioned, again in the 8th year.

*Sir Thomas Boleyne* of Hever-caſtle, in the 9th year.

*John Criſpe*, eſq. of Quekes, inBirchington, in Thanet, in the 10th year.

*Sir John Wiltſhire* of Stone, near Dartford, in the 11th year, comptroller of Calais.

*John Roper*, eſq. of St. Dunſtan's and Wellhall, in the 12th year.

*Robert Sondes*, eſq. of Town-place, in Throwley, and of Darking, in Surry, in the 13th year.

*Sir John Fogge* of Repton, in Aſhford, in the 14th year.

*George Gulderfield*, eſq. of Hempſted, in Benenden, in the 15th year.

*Sir William Haut* of Hautſborne, ſon and heir of ſir Thomas, in the 16th year.

*Henry Vane*, eſq. of Tunbridge, before mentioned, again in the 17th year.

*William Whettenhall*, eſq. of Hextal-place, in Eaſt Peckham, in the 18th year.

*Sir John Scott* of Scott's-hall, in the 19th year.

*William Kempe*, eſq. of Ollantigh, in the 20th year, afterwards knighted.

*Sir Edward Wotton* of Boughton Malherbe, in the 21ſt year.

*William Waller*, eſq. of Grombridge, in Speldhurſt, in the 22d year.

*Sir Richard Clement* of the Moat, in Ightham, in the 23d year.

*Sir William Finch* of the Moat, in St. Martin's, near Canterbury, in the 24th year.

*Thomas Roberts*, eſq. of Glaſſenbury, in Cranbrook, in the 25th year.

*Sir Thomas Poynings* of Oſtenhanger, in the 26th year, afterwards lord Poynings. He bore for his arms, *Barry of ſix or and vert, a bend gules*, as in many churches, and on the roof of the cloiſters in Canterbury.

*Sir Edward Wotton* of Boughton Malherbe, again in the 27th year.

*Sir Thomas Wyatt* of Allington-caſtle, in the 28th year.

*Sir William Haut* of Hautſbourne, again in the 29th year.

*Sir William Sidney*, banneret, of Penſhurſt, in the 30th year.

*Sir Anthony St. Leger* of Ulcombe, in the 31ſt year.

*Anthony Sondes*, eſq. of Throwley, in the 32d year.

*Reginald Scott* of Scott's-hall, in the 33d year.

*Sir Henry Iſley* of Sundridge, in the 34th year.

*Sir Humphrey Stile* of Langley-park, in Beckenham, in the 35th year.

*Sir John Fogge* of Repton, in the 36th year.

*Sir Percival Hart* of Lullingſtone, in the 37th year.

*Henry*

*Henry Criſpe*, eſq. of Quekes, in Birchington, in the 38th, and laſt year of king Henry VIII. who was afterwards knighted.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD VI.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1546.

*William Sidley*, eſq. of Scadbury, in Southfleet, in the 1ſt year.

*Sir George Harpur* of Sutton Valence, in the 2d year.

*Thomas Colepeper*, eſq. of Bedgbury, ſon and heir of ſir Alexander Colepeper, in the 3d year.

*Sir Thomas Wyatt* of Allington caſtle, in the 4th year.

*Sir Henry Iſley* of Sundridge, in the 5th year.

*Sir John Guldeford* of Hemſted, in Benenden, in the 6th year, in which king Edward VI. died.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF QUEEN MARY,

### WHO BEGAN HER REIGN IN 1553.

*Sir Robert Southwell* of Mereworth, in the 1ſt year, afterwards maſter of the rolls.

*William Roper*, eſq. of Well-hall, in the 1ſt and 2d of Philip and Mary.

*Sir Thomas Kempe* of Ollantigh, part of the 2d and 3d year, and the remaining part of it was ſupplied by Thomas Moile, eſq.

*George Vane*, eſq. of Badſel, in the 3d and 4th year.

*Thomas Wotton* of Boughton Malherbe, in the 4th and 5th, in which year queen Mary died.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH,

### WHO BEGAN HER REIGN IN 1558.

*Thomas Wotton*, eſq. before mentioned, continued in office part of the firſt year, and the remaining part of it was ſupplied by Nicholas Criſpe, eſq. who kept his ſhrievalty at Grimgill, in Whiſtable.

*Warham*

*Warham St. Leger*, eſq. of Ulcombe, in the 2d year, afterwards knighted.

*John Tufton*, eſq. of Hothfield, ſon and heir of Nicholas Tufton, eſq. of Nordiam, in Suſſex, in the 3d year. He bore for his arms, *Argent on a pale ſable, an eagle diſplayed of the firſt.*

*Richard Baker*, eſq, of Siſinghurſt, in the 4th year, ſon and heir of ſir John Baker, chancellor of the exchequer, and one of queen Mary's privy council.

*Sir Thomas Walſingham* of Scadbury, in Chiſelhurſt, in the 5th year.

*Sir Thomas Kempe* of Ollantigh, before mentioned, again in the 6th year.

*John Mayney* of Biddenden, eſq. in the 7th year; he died before the year was out, and the remainder of it was ſupplied by William Iſley, eſq. of Sundridge.

*John Sidley*, eſq. of Southfleet, in the 8th year.

*William Cromer*, eſq. of Tunſtal, in the 9th year, ſon and heir of James Cromer, eſq.

*John Brown*, of Reynolds, alias Brown's-place, in Horton Kirby, in the 10th year.

*Edward Iſaac*, eſq. of Patrickſbourn, in the 11th year.

*John Lennard*, eſq. of Chevening, in the 12th year, ſon and heir of John Lennard, of the ſame place.

*Walter Mayney*, eſq. of Spilſill, in Staplehurſt, in the 13th year.

*Sir Thomas Vane* of Badſell, in the 14th year.

*Thomas Willoughby*, eſq. of Bore-place, in Chidingſtone, in the 15th year. He was grandſon of ſir Thomas Willoughby, of the ſame place, chief juſtice of the common pleas.

*Sir James Hales* of the Dungeon, near Canterbury, in the 16th year.

*John Tufton*, eſq. of Hothfield, in the 17th year.

*Sir Thomas Scott* of Scott's-hall, in the 18th year.

*Edward Boys*, eſq. of Fredvile, in Nonington, in the 19th year.

*Thomas*

*Thomas Wotton*, eſq. of Boughton Malherbe, in the 20th year.

*Thomas Vane*, eſq. of Badſell, in Tudely, in the 21ſt year.

*Thomas Sondes* of Throwley, in the 22d year.

*Sir George Hart* of Lullingſtone, in the 23d year.

*Sir Richard Baker* of Siſinghurſt, in the 24th year.

*Juſtinian Champneis*, eſq. of Hall-place, in Bexley, in the 25th year, ſon of ſir John Champneis, lord-mayor of London.

*Michael Sondes*, eſq. of Throwley, in the 26th year.

*William Cromer*, eſq. of Tunſtall, in the 27th year.

*Sir James Hales* of the Dungeon, near Canterbury, in the 28th year.

*John Fineux* of Haw-houſe, in Hearn, eſq. in the 29th year.

*Richard Hardres*, eſq. of Hardres, in the 30th year.

*William Sidley*, eſq. of Southfleet, in the 31ſt year.

*Thomas Willoughby*, eſq. of Bore-place, in Chiding-ſtone, in the 32d year.

*Sampſon Lennard*, eſq. of Chevening, in the 33d year.

*Robert Bing*, eſq. of Wrotham, in the 34th year.

*Michael Sondes*, eſq. of Throwley, in the 35th year.

*Sir Edward Wotton* of Boughton Malherbe, in the 36th year.

*Thomas Palmer*, eſq. of Wingham, in the 37th year.

*Sir Moile Finch* of Eaſt Well, in the 38th year.

*Thomas Kempe*, eſq. of Ollantigh, in Wye, in the 39th year.

*Martin Barnham*, eſq. in the 40th year.

*Roger Twyſden*, eſq. of Royden-hall, in Eaſt Peckham, in the 41ſt year.

*John Smith*, eſq. of Oſtenhanger, in Stanford, in the 42d year.

*Thomas Scott*, eſq. of Scott's-hall, in the 43d year.

*Sir Peter Manwood*, K. B. of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, in the 44th, being the laſt of this queen's reign.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES I.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1602.

*Sir Peter Manwood*, of St. Stephen's above mentioned, continued in the 1ſt year.

*Sir James Cromer* of Tunſtal, in the 2d year.

*Sir Thomas Baker*, ſecond ſon of ſir Richard Baker, of Siſinghurſt, in the 3d year, and kept his ſhrievalty at Siſinghurſt.

*Sir Moile Finch* of Eaſtwell, in the 4th year.

*Sir Norton Knatchbull* of Merſham, in the 5th year.

*Sir Robert Edolph* of Hinxhill, in the 6th year.

*Sir Edward Hales* of Woodchurch, in the 7th year.

*Sir William Wilhens* of Southend, in Eltham, in the 8th year.

*Sir Nicholas Gilbourne* of Charing, in the 9th year.

*Sir Maximilian Dalliſon* of Halling, near Rocheſter, in the 10th year.

*Sir William Steed* of Steed-hill, in Harrietſham, in the 11th year.

*Sir Anthony Aucher* of Hautſbourne, in the 12th year.

*Sir Edward Filmer* of Eaſt Sutton, in the 13th year.

*Sir Edwin Sandys* of Norbourn, in the 14th year.

*William Beſwick*, eſq. of Spelmonden, in Horſmonden, in the 15th year.

*Gabriel Liveſey*, eſq. of Hollingbourn, in the 16th year.

*Sir Thomas Norton* of Bobbing and Northwood, in Milton, in the 17th year.

*Edward Scott*, eſq. of Scott's-hall, in the 18th year. He was afterwards made a knight of the Bath, at the coronation of king Charles.

*Sir John Sidley* of the Friars, in Aylesford, in the 19th year.

*Sir*

*Sir Thomas Roberts* of Glaſſenbury, in Cranbrook, in the 20th year.

*Sir George Fawe* of Burſton, in Hunton, in the 21ſt year.

*Sir John Hayward* of Hollingbourn, in the 22d, being the laſt year of the reign of king James.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES I.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1625.

*Sir Thomas Hamon* of Braſted, in the 1ſt year, ſon of William Hamon, of Acris, eſq. He bore for his arms, *Azure, three demi lions paſſant guardant or.*

*Sir Iſaac Sidley*, knt. and bart. of Great Chart, in the 2d year.

*Baſil Dixwell*, eſq. of Folkeſtone, in the 3d year.

*Sir Edward Engham* of Goodneſton, in the 4th year; and had a diſpenſation, under the king's hand and ſignet, to inhabit within the county and city of Canterbury during his year of ſhrievalty, and to find a proper perſon to attend at the aſſiſes in his ſtead, in regard to his indiſpoſition of body.

*Sir William Campion* of Combwell, in Goudhurſt, in the 5th year.

*John Brown*, eſq. of Singleton, in Great Chart, in the 6th year; he was deſcended from thoſe of Beechworth caſtle, and bore the ſame arms.

*Sir Robert Lewknor* of Acris, in the 7th year.

*Nicholas Miller*, eſq. of Horſnells Crouch, in Wrotham, in the 8th year.

*Sir Thomas Style*, knt. and bart. of Watringbury, in the 9th year.

*Sir John Baker* of Siſinghurſt, in Cranbrook, bart. in the 10th year.

*Edward Chout*, eſq. of Bethersden and Hinxhill, in the 11th year, and kept his ſhrievalty at the latter.

*Sir William Colepeper*, bart. of Preſton, in Aylesford, in the 12th year.

*Sir*

*Sir George Sondes*, K. B. of Lees-court, in Sheldwhich, in the 13th year.

*Sir Thomas Hendley* of Courſehorne, in Cranbrook, in the 14th year.

*Sir Edward Maſter* of Eaſt Langdon, in the 15th year.

*David Polhill*, eſq. of Otford, in the 16th year. His arms were, *Argent, on a bend gules, three croſs-croſlets or.*

*James Hugeſſen*, eſq. of Linſted, in the 17th year.

*Sir William Brockman* of Bytchborough, in Newington, near Hyth, in the 18th year, being appointed by the king, then in arms at Oxford; but being a perſon of known loyalty to king Charles, he was ſoon ſuperceded in his office by the authority of the parliament then ſitting, and ſir John Honeywood of Evington was appointed by them to ſerve the remainder of the year.

*Sir John Honywood* before mentioned, continued in office in the 19th and 20th years.

*Sir John Rayney*, bart. in the 21ſt year; in which ſir Edward Monins, of Waldeſhare, bart. was alſo ſheriff.

*Sir John Henden* of Biddenden, in the 22d year. His arms were, *Azure, a lion paſſant between three eſcallops or.*

*Sir Stephen Scott* of Hayes, in the 23d year.

*George Selby*, eſq. of the Moat, in Ightham, in the 24th year; in which year the king was put to death, on January 30, 1648. His arms were, *Barry of eight pieces or and ſable.*

## SHERIFFS DURING THE USURPATION,

### AFTER THE DEATH OF KING CHARLES I.

1650 *Henry Criſpe* of Quekes, in Birchington; but in reſpect of his age and infirmities, his place was ſupplied by ſir Nicholas Criſpe, his ſon and heir.

1651 *George*

1651 *George Curtis*, eſq. of Chart Sutton, was choſen to ſerve the office in the room of William Draper, eſq. of Crayford, who died ſoon after his nomination to this office. By reaſon of his age and infirmities his ſon Norton Curtis, was ſuffered to diſcharge the office for him. His arms were, *Argent, a cheveron between three bulls heads, caboſhed ſable.*

1652 *Thomas Floyd*, eſq. of Gore-court, in Otham.

1653 *Bernard Hyde* of Bore-place, in Chidingſtone.

1654 *The Rt. Hon. Sir John Tufton*, earl of Thanet. He bore for his arms, *Sable, within a bordure argent, an eagle diſplayed ermine.*

1655 *Sir Humphry Tufton* of the Moat, near Maidſtone, uncle to the above mentioned earl.

1656 } *Sir Michael Liveſey*, bart. of Eaſtchurch, in
1657 } Shepey.

1658 *Charles Bolles*, eſq. of Rocheſter.

1659 ....., *Plumer*, eſq.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES II.

### FROM HIS RESTORATION IN 1660.

1660 } *Sir Robert Auſten*, bart. of Hall-place, in Bex-
1661 } ley. He continued in office till the end of the next year.

1662 *David Polhill*, eſq. of Chipſted.

1663 *Nicholas Toke*, eſq. of Goddington, in Great Chart.

1664 *Thomas Biggs*, eſq.

1665 *Sir John Beal*, bart. of Farningham.

1666 *Sir Humphry Miller*, bart. of Oxenhoath, in Weſt Peckham.

1667 *Sir William Leach* of Squirries, in Weſtram.

1668 *Sir John Williams* of Eleham-court, afterwards created a baronet. He bore for his arms, *Argent, a wivern's head eraſed vert, holding in his mouth a man's hand couped at the wriſt and erect gules.*

1669 *Robert*

1669 *Robert Jacques*, eſq. of Elmeſtone.
1670 *Sir John Darell* of Calehill, in Little Chart.
1671 *Sir William Hugeſſen* of Provender, in Norton.
1672 *John Twiſleton*, eſq. of Horſeman's-place, in Dartford.
1673 *Sir Bernard Hyde* of Sundridge.
1674 *William Gomeldon*, eſq. of Somerfield-court, in Sellindge.
1675 *Francis Vanacker*, eſq. of Erith.
1676 *Sir John Cutler*, knt. and bart. of Deptford. His arms were, *Azure, three dragons heads eraſed or, a chief argent.*
1677 *Thomas Cadwell*, eſq. of Rolvenden.
1678, 1679 *Sir Richard Betenſon*, knt. and bart. of Scadbury, in Chiſilhurſt, and continued in office the next year, at the end of which he died.
1680 *Ralph Petley*. eſq. of Riverhead.
1681 *George Etkins*, eſq. of Graveſend.
1682, 1683, 1684 *Archibald Clenkerd*, eſq. of Sutton Valence, as he was likewiſe in the two following years.
1685 *William Rooke*, eſq. of Canterbury; afterwards knighted, being the laſt year of the reign of king Charles II.

## SHERIFFS IN THE REIGN OF KING JAMES II.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1685.

1687, 1688 In the 1ſt year of king James II. no ſheriff is found in the recogniſance book in the exchequer; but in the 2d and 3d, *Sir William Rooke* above mentioned ſerved this office.
1689 *Sir Robert Filmer*, bart. of Eaſt Sutton, in the 4th, and laſt year of king James's reign.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING WILLIAM III.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1689.

1690 *Thomas Adrian*, eſq. of Biſrons, in Patrikſbourn.
1691 *Sir Henry Palmer*, bart. of Wingham.
1692 *Sir John Marſham*, bart. of the Moat, near Maidſtone.
1693 *Sir Nicholas Toke* of Goddington, in Great Chart.
1694 *Edmund Davenport*, eſq. of Greenſted-green, in Darent.
1695 *William Cage*, eſq. of Milgate, in Berſted.
1696 *Saloman Hougham*, eſq. of St. Paul's, in Canterbury.
1697 *Richard Goodhugh*, eſq. of Tunbridge.
1698 *George Children*, eſq. of Tunbridge.
1699 *John Amherſt*, eſq. of Eaſt Farleigh.
1700 *William Woodgate*, eſq. of Chiddingſtone.
1701 *Iſaac Loader*, eſq. of Deptford.
1702 *Bowyer Hendley*, eſq. of Gore-court, in Otham, in which year king William died.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ANNE,

### WHO BEGAN HER REIGN IN 1702.

1703 *Thomas Golding*, eſq. of Leybourn-caſtle.
1704 *Sir Thomas Colepepyr*, bart. of Preſton-hall, in Aylesford.
1705 *Sir Edward Betenſon*, of Scadbury, in Cheſilhurſt.
1706 *Snelling Thomas*, eſq. of Deptford.
1707 *Percyval Hart*, eſq. of Lullingſtone.
1708 *James Codd*, eſq. of Watringbury; he died whilſt in office, and Stephen Stringer, eſq. of Goudhurſt was ſheriff for the remaining part of the year.

1709 *Sir Comport Fytch*, bart. of Eltham.
1710 *Sir Thomas Style*, bart. of Watringbury.
1711 *Humphrey Style*, eſq. of Langley, in Beckenham.
1712 *John Hooker*, eſq. of Little Peckham.
1713 *Leonard Bartholomew*, eſq. of Rocheſter.
1714 *John Lynch*, eſq. of Grove, in Staple, in the laſt year of queen Anne.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE I.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1714.

1715 *David Polhill*, eſq. of Chipſted-place, in Chevening.
1716 *Richard Gee*, eſq. of Orpington.
1717 *Richard Sheldon*, eſq. of Aldington, in Thurnham.
1718 *John Stevens*, eſq. His arms were, *On a chevron three croſs-croſlets, between three demi lions rampant.*
1719 *John Hamilton*, eſq. of Chilſton, in Boughton Malherbe.
1720 *Sir Charles Farnaby* of Kippington, in Sevenoke.
1721 *Jonathan Smith*, eſq. of Ingres, in Swanſcombe.
1722 *Peter Burrell*, eſq. of Beckenham.
1723 *William Glanville*, eſq. of St. Cleres, in Ightham.
1724 *Sir Robert Auſten*, bart. of Hall-place, in Bexley.
1725 *James Maſter*, eſq. of Yotes, in Mereworth. He bore for his arms, *Azure, a feſs embattled, between three griffins heads eraſed.*
1726 *John Savage*, eſq. of Boughton Monchelſea; and on his death, in April 1726, Richard Lewin, eſq. of Lee, was ſheriff for the remaining part of the year. He bore for his arms, *A chevron between three eſcallops.*
1727 *Samuel Pugh*, eſq. of Beckenham.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE II.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1727.

1728 *Robert Weller*, eſq. of Tunbridge.

1729 *Thomas May*, eſq. of Godmerſham. His arms were, *Gules, a feſs between eight billets or*, being the arms of May. He was the ſon of William Broadnax, of Godmerſham, eſq. and by act, (13 George I.) took the ſirname of May, as he did afterwards, in 1738, the name of Knight.

1730 *Mawdiſtly Beſt*, eſq. of Boxley.

1731 *James Brookes*, eſq. of Lewiſham.

1732 *William James*, eſq. of Ightham.

1733 *Sir Brook Bridges*, bart. of Goodneſton; who dying May 23, ſir Windham Knatchbull, bart. was ſheriff for the remaining part of the year.

1734 *Sir Henry Dicks* of Deptford, knighted during his ſhrievalty. His arms were, *A feſs wavy between three fleurs de lis.*

1735 *Baldwin Duppa*, junior, eſq. of Hollingbourn.

1736 *Abraham Spencer*, eſq. of Penhurſt.

1737 *Thomas Maylin*, eſq. of Cheſilhurſt.

1738 *Jones Raymond*, eſq. of Langley, in Beckenham, who died ſoon after his appointment, and Chriſtopher Milles, eſq. of Nackington ſerved the remainder of the year.

1739 *Robert Lacey*, eſq. of Elmes, in Hougham.

1740 *John Smith*, eſq. and on his death, in June that year, John Douglas, eſq. was appointed for the remainder of the year.

1741 *John Lidgbird*, eſq. of Plumſted.

1742 *John Maſon*, eſq. of Greenwich.

1743 *Thomas Whitaker*, eſq. of Trotteſcliffe.

1744 *Thomas Hodſon*, eſq. of Bromley.

1745 *John Cooke*, eſq. of Cranbrook.

1746 *Arthur Harris*, eſq. of Barming.

1747 *William Quilter*, eſq. of Orpington.

1748 *Samuel Collett*, eſq. of Greenwich. His arms were, *Sable, on a chevron argent three annulets of the firſt, between three hinds of the ſecond.*
1749 *Richard Hornſby*, eſq. of Horton Kirkby.
1750 *Richard Merry*, eſq. of Eltham.
1751 *James Beſt*, eſq. of Boxley.
1752 *Sir John Honywood*, bart.
1753 *Sir John Shaw*, bart. of Eltham.
1754 *Sir Thomas Rider* of Boughton Monchelſea.
1755 *George Sayer*, eſq. of Charing.
1756 *John Cocking Sole*, eſq. of Bobbing-place.
1757 *William Glanvil Evelyn*, eſq. of St. Clere's, in Ightham.
1758 *Thomas Whitaker*, eſq. of Trotteſcliffe.
1759 *Pyke Burfar*, eſq. of Greenwich.
1760 *Sir Thomas Wilſon* of Weſt Wickham, who was knighted during his ſhrievalty, ſerved this office in the laſt year of king George II.

## SHERIFFS IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE III.

### WHO BEGAN HIS REIGN IN 1760.

1761 *William Jumper*, eſq. of Leed's-abbey.
1762 *Sir George Kelly* of Speldhurſt, who was knighted during his ſhrievalty.
1763 *William Gorden*, eſq. of Rocheſter.
1764 *Henry Goodwin*, eſq. of Deptford.
1765 *Sir Richard Betenſon*, bart. of Bradbourn, in Sevenoke.
1766 *William Wilſon*, eſq.
1767 *James Whatman*, eſq. of Boxley.
1768 *Richard Hulſe*, eſq. of Baldwin's, near Dartford, ſecond ſon of ſir Edward Hulſe.
1769 *William Wheatley*, eſq. of Erith.
1770 *John Toke*, eſq. of Goddington, in Great Chart.
1771 *William Daniel Maſter*, eſq. of Yotes, in Mereworth.
1772 *James Flint*, eſq. of Judde-houſe, in Oſpringe.

1773 *Joſiah*

1773 *Joſiah Fuller Farrer*, eſq. of Cleve-court, in Thanet.

1774 *Willſhire Emmett*, eſq. of Wiarton, in Boughton Monchelſea.

1775 *Granville Wheeler*, eſq. of Otterden-place.

1776 *William Perrin*, eſq. of Smith's-hall, in Weſt Farleigh.

1777 *Benjamin Harenc*, eſq. of Footſcray-place.

1778 *John Ward*, eſq. of Weſterham.

1779 *William Slade*, eſq. of Lewiſham.

1780 *Robert Burrow*, eſq. of Holwood-hill.

1781 *John Cator*, eſq. of Beckenham-place.

1782 *Samuel Boys*, eſq. of Hawkhurſt.

1783 *Henry Hawley*, eſq. of the Grange, in Leyborne. ſince created a baronet.

1784 *Charles Booth*, eſq. of Harrietſham-place, who was knighted during his ſhrievalty.

1785 *Edward Knatchbull*, eſq. of Provenders, in Norton, eldeſt ſon of ſir Edward Knatchbull, baronet.

1786 *Thomas Hallet Hodges*, eſq. of Hemſted, in Benenden.

1787 *John Cottin*, eſq. of Hill-park, in Weſterham.

1788 *James Bond*, eſq. of Hayes, and part of 1789.

1789 *John Cartier*, eſq. of Bedgbury, in Goudhurſt, was ſheriff in the latter part of the year.

1790 *Leonard Bartholemew*, eſq. of Addington-place.

1791 *William James Drake Brockman*, eſq. of Bitchborough, in Newington, near Hythe.

1792 *Henry Streatfield*, eſq. of Highſtreet-houſe, in Chiddingſtone.

1793 *George Norman*, eſq. of Bromley.

1794 *Richard Carew*, eſq. of Orpington.

1795 *Gabriel Harpur*, eſq. of Gore-court, in Tunſtall; Samuel Chambers, eſq. of that pariſh was appointed his deputy, and executed this office for him.

1796 *John Mumford*, eſq. of Sutton at Hone.

AT the time the Earls gave up the wardenſhips of their reſpective counties, and the office of *ſheriff* was conſtituted, there were other officers likewiſe conſtituted, who were ordained together with him to keep the peace of each county; theſe were called *Coroners*, *Coronatores*, becauſe they had principally to do with the pleas of the crown, or ſuch wherein the king was more immediately concerned; and in this light, the *lord chief juſtice of the King's bench* is the *principal coroner* of the kingdom, and may, if he pleaſes, exerciſe this office in any part of the realm.

There are particular *coroners* for every county in England, uſually four, ſometimes ſix, and ſometimes fewer, and they are ſtill choſen by all the freeholders in the county court, as, by the policy of our antient laws, all other officers were, who had concern in matters that affected the liberty of the people. Of antient time this office was of great eſtimation; for none could be elected to it under the degree of a *knight*; and there was an inſtance in the 5th of king Edward III. of a man's being removed from it, becauſe he was only a merchant. Now, indeed, through the neglect of gentlemen of property, this office has been ſuffered to fall into the hands of thoſe of lower rank, being at preſent uſually executed, in this county in particular, by *attornies at law*; and although formerly none who were *coroners* would condeſcend to be paid for ſerving their country, yet for many years paſt they have only ſolicited to be choſen for the advantage of the perquiſites and fees which they are by ſtatute allowed to take, which now amount to ſo conſiderable a ſum as to be highly burdenſome to the county.

The office and power of a *coroner*, like thoſe of a ſheriff, are both miniſterial and judicial, as the ſheriff's

riff's ſubſtitute, but principally the latter, which almoſt wholly conſiſts in taking inquiſitions upon view of the body, when any one is ſlain, or dies ſuddenly, or in priſon, or any kind of unnatural death whatſoever, and the body is found within his diſtrict; and this he does by *a jury* ſummoned from the neighbourhood. The whole of which inquiſition he is to certify to the court of King's-bench, or to the next aſſiſes. Another branch of this office is to enquire concerning ſhipwrecks and treaſure trove.[a] His fees of office, which are paid out of the county ſtock, are twenty ſhillings for every inquiſition he takes, and nine-pence a mile for every mile he travels from his own home to take the ſame. There are at preſent five coroners choſen to exerciſe this office in this county.

IN antient times there were two ſorts of *conſervators of the peace* in this realm, *the firſt* were thoſe who had this power annexed to ſome office which they held; and *the ſecond* were without any office, and ſimply and merely conſervators of the peace, who claimed that power by preſcription, or were bound to exerciſe it by tenure of their lands, or laſtly were choſen by the freeholders in full county court before the ſheriff, by force of the king's writ, out of the principal men of the county, after the return of which, the king directed his writ to the perſon elected, commanding him to take upon him, and execute the office until he ſhould order otherwiſe. Their office was (according to their names) to conſerve the king's peace, and to protect the obedient and innocent ſubjects from force and violence. In this manner the *conſervatores pacis* were conſtituted till the depoſal and murder of king Edward II. by the contrivance of queen Iſabel, when, leſt ſo foul an action might alarm

[a] Blackſtone's Com. vol. i. p. 348. Dudg. Warwickſh. p. 23.

the people, and occaſion riſings and other diſturbances of the peace, the new king (Edward III.) ſent writs to all the ſheriffs in England, the form of which is preſerved by Walſingham, giving a plauſible account of the manner of his obtaining the crown, and that was done *ipſius patris beneplacito*, and withal commanding each ſheriff that peace be kept throughout his bailiwic; and a few weeks after the date of theſe writs, it was ordained in parliament, in the firſt year of that reign, that for the maintenance and keeping the peace in every county, good men and lawful, who were no maintainers of evil, nor barretors in the county, ſhould be aſſigned to keep the peace; and thus, upon this occaſion, was the election of *conſervators of the peace* taken from the people, and given to the king, this aſſignment being conſtrued to be by the king's commiſſion.[a]

In the 12th year of that reign they were authoriſed by two commiſſions to reduce all vagabonds and wanderers, to diſſipate all mutinous and riotous conventions, and to ſuppreſs all thieves and outlaws, and other perſons diſaffected to the peace eſtabliſhed, and to vindicate and aſſert the two ſtatutes of Northampton and Wincheſter. But ſtill they were called only *conſervators*, *wardens*, or *keepers of the peace*, till the 34th year of king Edward III. when by ſtatute they had power given them of trying felonies, and then they acquired the more honourable appellation of *juſtices of the peace*. It appears, that in the 8th year of the above reign, in the parliament held at York, it was petitioned, that in every county there might be appointed one juſtice of the peace learned in the law, who ſhould be chief; and though this was not then granted, it ſhews it was thought expedient, and might be ſoon afterwards put in practice.[b] Theſe juſtices,

[a] Coke's Inſt. c. viii. part. ii. p. 558. Blackſtone's Com. vol. i. p. 394 et ſeq. [b] Cotton's Records, p. 15.

the

the principal of whom is the *cuſtos rotulorum*, or *keeper of the rolls of the county*, are now appointed by the king's ſpecial commiſſion, under the great ſeal, the form of which was ſettled by all the judges in the reign of queen Elizabeth, anno 1590. This appoints them all, jointly and ſeverally, to keep the peace; and any two or more of them to enquire of and determine felonies and other miſdemeanors, in which number ſome particular juſtices, or one of them, are directed to be always preſent; the words of the commiſſion running, *quorum aliquem veſtrum unum eſſe volumus*, whence the perſons ſo named are uſually called *juſtices of the quorum*, and formerly it was the cuſtom to appoint only a ſelect number of juſtices, eminent for their rank, or their ſkill and diſcretion, to be of the *quorum*, though now, all in the commiſſion are advanced to that dignity, except the laſt one or two perſons named in it.

Touching their number and qualification, it was ordained by the ſtatute, in the 18th year of king Edward III. that they ſhould be two or three of the beſt reputation in each county; but theſe being found too few for the purpoſe, it was provided by ſtatute, in the 34th year of that reign, that one lord, and three or four of the moſt worthy men of the county, with ſome learned in the law, ſhould be made *juſtices* in every county. After this, the number of juſtices, through the ambition of private perſons, became ſo large, that it was thought neceſſary, by ſtatute in the 12th and 14th years of king Richard II. to reſtrain them, at firſt to ſix, and afterwards to eight only; but this rule is now diſregarded, which ſeems, as Mr. Lambarde juſtly obſerves, to be owing to the growing number of ſtatute laws, committed from time to time to the charge of the *juſtices of the peace*, the burthen of which has occaſioned, and very reaſonably, their increaſe to a larger number. The commiſſion of the peace for each county, now containing the names

names of ſeveral hundred perſons, every gentleman of rank and property in a county looking upon himſelf ſlighted if his name is not inſerted in it.

As to their *qualifications*, they were at firſt directed to be of the beſt reputation, and moſt worthy men of the county, of the moſt ſufficient knights, eſquires, and gentlemen of the law; and as in proceſs of time, it was found, that contrary to the laws, men of ſmall ſubſtance and low rank had crept into the commiſſion, whoſe degree in life and poverty made them both covetous and contemptible, to prevent this, it was thought neceſſary, in the 18th year of king Henry VI. to affix a *qualification* of twenty pounds per annum to this office, which, on the continued alteration of money was, in the reign of George II. raiſed to one hundred pounds per annum, clear of all deductions; notwithſtanding which, this method has not as yet proved any ways ſufficient to remedy the above inconvenience.

## CONSERVATORS OF THE PEACE,

### FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT.[a]

HENRY de Montford, Bartholemus de Burghurſt, Johannes de Iſield.[b]

Bartholemus de Burghurſt, Johannes de Cobham, Johannes de Iſield.[c]

Johannes de Cobham, Johannes de Iſield.[d]

Willielmus de Clinton, Johannes de Cobham, Johannes de Segrave, Thomas de Feverſham, *Tres vel duo eorum.*[e]

[a] Rymer's Fœd. vol. i. p. 792.

[b] Pat. 48 Hen. III. Pat. 1 Edw. III. 1ma. pars memb. 7ma. in dorſo.

[c] Pat. 3 Edw. III. 1ma. pars memb. 26 in dorſo.

[d] Pat. 5 Edw. III. 1ma. pars memb. 24 in dorſo.

[e] Pat. 6 Edw. III. 1ma. pars memb. 22 in dorſo.

Willielmus

Willielmus de Clinton, John de Cobham, Galfridus de Say, John de Segrave, Otho de Grandiſon, Thomas de Feverſham. *Quinque, quatuor, tres et duo eorum.*[f]

Johannes de Cobham, Thomas de Aldon, Johannes de Segrave. *De confirmatione pacis, et ſtatuti Northampton, et cujuſdem ordinationis, ne qui alicubi incedant armati ad terrorem populi.*[g]

Willielmus de Clinton, Radulphus Savage, Thomas de Aldon, Johannes de Hampton, Willielmus de Reculver. *Quatuor vel tres eorum. De feloniis et malefactoribus notorie ſuſpectis inſequendis et de audiendo et terminando felonia, tranſgreſſiones et exceſſus.*[h]

Johannes de Cobham, Thomas de Aldon, Thomas de Brockhull, Willielmus de Orlanſtone. *Tres vel duo eorum.* Jo. de Warrena, *com. de Surry.* Willielmo de Clinton, *com. de Huntingdon, quos, &c.*[i]

Johannes de Cobham, Thomas de Brockhull, Otho de Grandiſon, Willielmus de Morant. *Tres vel duo eorum in com. Kantii.*[k]

Galfridus de Say, Willielmus de Thorpe, Otho de Grandiſon, Arnaldus de Savage, Stephanus de Valoigns, Willielmus de Norton.[l]

Galfridus de Say, Willielmus de Norton, Willielmus de Thorpe, Thomas de Lodelow.[m]

Rogerus de Mortuomari, *Comes de March, conſtab. caſtr. Dovoriæ et cuſtos 5 portuum*, Willielmus de *Thorpe,[n] Radulphus de Spigornel, Willielmus de *Norton, Stephanus de Valoigns, Thomas de Lodelow, Willielmus Warner.[o]

[f] Pat. 6 Edw. III. 1ma. pars memb. 11 in dorſo.
[g] Pat. 9 Edw. III. 2da. pars memb. 24 in dorſo.
[h] Pat. 20 Edw. III. 2da. pars memb. 18 in dorſo.
[i] Pat. 12 Edw. III. memb. 16 in dorſo.
[k] Pat. 18 Edw. III. 2da. pars memb. 35 in dorſo.
[l] Pat. 29 Edw. III. 1ma. pars memb. 29 in dorſo.
[m] Pat. 31 Edw. III. 1ma. pars memb. 17 in dorſo.
[n] Thoſe marked thus were judges.
[o] Pat. 31 Edw. III. 2da. pars memb. 11 in dorſo.

In

In the next commiſſion, awarded after the act of the 34th of king Edward III. the eight following perſons were named:

Sir Robert Herle, lord warden of the five ports, and conſtable of Dover-caſtle; John de Cobham; Roger de Northwood, of Northwood; Ralph de Fremingham, of Fremingham; Robert de Lodelow; Robert Vintners, of Vintners in Boxley; John Barrie, of Sevington; and Thomas Hartridge, of Hartridge in Cranbrook.

But the reſtriction in the above act, that one lord, with three or four of the beſt in the county, and three or four learned in the laws, ſhould be aſſigned in every ſhire to keep the peace, and reſtrain offenders, was but little attended to; for in the commiſſion iſſued in the 1ſt year of king Richard II. the numbers were greatly augmented, and were as follow:

*De juſticiariis ad pacem conſervandam aſſignatis.* Edmundus *comes Cantab. conſtab. caſtri Dovoriæ.*

Johannes de Cobham, Robertus *Belknap, Stephanus de Valoigns, Henricus de *Eſtrie, Willielmus Horne, Thomas de *Shardelow, Willielmus Topcliff, Thomas Garwinton de Well, Nicholas Hering, Willielmus Tilcombe, Willielmus Mackenade, Johannes Francis, Thomas Hartridge, John Bird de Smeeth. *Juſticiarii ad pacem conſervandam aſſignati, in laſtis de Sheringhope, Shepwey, St. Auguſtine, et 7 hundredis in com. Kantii. Teſte rege apud Weſtm. 1ma die Aprilis.*[a]

*Idem* Edmundus *comes ſupradictus*, Johannes Cobham, Robertus Belknap, Thomas Colepeper, Henry de Eſtrie, Johannes Fremingham, Jacobus de Peckham, Thomas de Shardelow, Willielmus Topclive, Nicholaus Hering, Willielmus Makedade. *Juſticiarii ad pacem conſervandam aſſignati, in laſtis de Ailesford,*

[a] Pat. 1 Rich. II. 1ma. pars memb. 20 in dorſo.

Sutton

*Sutton, et Leucata de Tunbridge in com. Kantii. Teſte rege ut ſupra.*

The above were two ſeparate commiſſions, iſſued at the ſame time, for the ſeveral parts of the county, as above-mentioned.

In the reign of queen Elizabeth, anno 1596,[b] there were no leſs than *ſixty-four* of the nobility and gentry of this county in the commiſſion of the peace, then reſiding in it, beſides numbers of others, who reſided in other parts of the kingdom.

In the firſt of king Charles I. as it appears by the commiſſion then granted, there were *eighty-ſix* perſons named in it.[b] How much the numbers have ſtill increaſed ſince the above reign, may be ſeen by the names in the preſent commiſſion of the peace, which are near four hundred, though there is not a *fourth part* of them that qualify themſelves to undertake this moſt uſeful and neceſſary office, for the ſervice of their country.

THE *degree of baronet* was inſtituted in 1611, in the 9th year of king James I. as a means of raiſing money for the ſecurity of a plantation in the province of Ulſter, in the kingdom of Ireland. For which end, the perſon raiſed to this dignity gave a ſupply to the king, ſufficient to maintain and ſupport thirty men in the foot forces in Ireland, for three entire years, for the defence of that kingdom, and eſpecially of the ſaid province, which was paid in a ſum into the exchequer, upon ſealing of their patent, but which has been in general long ſince diſcontinued. For this reaſon each *baronet* bears, over his uſual coat of arms, thoſe of Ulſter, either in a *canton* or in an *eſcutcheon*, viz. *In a field argent, a ſiniſter hand, couped*

[b] Lambarde's Peramb. p. 28. [c] Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii p. 856.

*at*

*at the wriſt, extended in pale, gules.* They are *created by patent*, under the broad ſeal, to them and the heirs of their body, lawfully begotten, and ſometimes with remainder to another in like manner. By their patent they have the addition of *ſir* to themſelves, and the title of *madam*, and *lady*, to their wives, with precedency before all perſons whatever, under the degree of barons of parliament, excepting knights of the garter, privy counſellors, chancellor and under-treaſurer of the exchequer, chancellor of the duchy, the chief juſtices, the maſter of the rolls, the chief baron, and all other the judges and barons of the degree of the coif, the younger ſons of viſcounts and barons, and bannerets made by the king, under his ſtandard diſplayed in an army-royal in open war, in the preſence of the king; they have alſo place in groſs near the king's ſtandard. Their eldeſt ſons, attaining the age of twenty-one, may receive *knighthood*, and they and all their other ſons and daughters, and their wives, have place reſpectively before the eldeſt ſons, and other ſons, daughters, and wives of all others whomſoever, whom their fathers precede. In the univerſities, by the ſtatutes, *baronets* enjoy much the ſame privileges as the higher nobility, and are there ſtiled noblemen.

At the firſt inſtitution it was deſigned, that they ſhould not exceed two hundred, and that after this number ſhould be completed, if any of them became *extinct*, for want of heirs male, there ſhould never be any more created in their room, but that the number aforeſaid ſhould diminiſh, and on that account be reduced to a leſſer number; king James exceeded this by four only, and thoſe were to fill vacancies that happened not by death or attainder, but by promotion to a higher dignity, ſo that he did not go beyond the bounds of his firſt engagement. But the ſucceeding kings have been pleaſed to increaſe the number greatly, and this degree is now, like the higher

higher hereditary titles, without limitation, at the pleaſure of the prince.

At firſt it was ordered, that none were to be admitted to this degree of honor, unleſs, upon good proof, they were men for quality, ſtate of living, and good reputation, worthy of it; and, at the leaſt, deſcended from a grandfather, by the father's ſide, that bore arms, and had alſo a clear revenue in lands of at leaſt one thouſand pounds per annum. Thus it is very plain, they were deſigned at firſt to be men of family, figure, and fortune; but how far this has of late years been deviated from is ſo viſible to every one that it needs no farther comment in this place.*

## LIST OF THE BARONETS OF THIS COUNTY,

FROM THE FIRST INSTITUTION OF THE ORDER TO THE PRESENT TIME.

### CREATED BY KING JAMES I.

| No. in the gen. order of creation. | NAME. | RESIDENCE. | DATE. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 25 | SIR Moyle Finch, knt. | of Eaſtwell..... | 1611 |
| | *Now earl of Winchelſea and Nottingham. Two patents; June 29, 1611, and June 7, 1660.* | | |
| 60 | Sir John Tufton, knt. | of Hothfield ..... | —— |
| | *Now earl of Thanet.* | | *June 29.* |
| 61 | Sir Sam. Peyton, knt. | of Knowlton ..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | | |
| 63 | Sir Henry Baker, knt. | of Siſinghurſt ..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | | |
| 65 | Sir Wm. Sidley, knt. | of Aylesford..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | | |
| 66 | Sir Wm. Twyſden, knt. | of Eaſt-Peckham | —— |
| | *Now Sir William.* | | |

* Chauncy's Hertf. p. 503. Baronetage, vol. iii. p. 252 et ſeq.

67 Sir

| NUMB. | NAME. | RESIDENCE. | DATE. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 67 | Sir Edward Hales, knt. | of Woodchurch .. | 1611 |
| | *Now Sir Edward, of St. Stephen's.* | | |
| 68 | William Monyns, eſq. | of Walderſhare ... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | | |
| 105 | Sir Wm. Hervey, knt. | of Kidbrook ..... | 1618 |
| | *Extinct.* | *March* 1. | |
| 124 | Adam Newton, eſq. .... | of Charlton ..... | 1620 |
| | *Extinct.* | *April* 2. | |
| 138 | Sir Tho. Roberts, knt. | of Glaſſenbury .... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *July* 3. | |
| 151 | Sir Tho. Palmer, knt. | of Wingham ..... | 1621 |
| | *Now of Buckinghamſhire.* | *June* 29. | |
| 153 | Sir John Rivers, knt. | of Chafford ..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *July* 19. | |
| 155 | Sir Iſaac Sidley, knt. .... | of Great Chart.... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *September* 14. | |
| 191 | Wm. Meredith, eſq. .... | of Stanſty, *Dorſet.* | 1622 |
| | *Afterwards of Leed's-abbey in this county.* | *Extinct.* | |
| 193 | Giff. Thornhurſt, eſq. | of Agnes-court ... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *November* 12. | |

## CREATED BY KING CHARLES I.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 209 | Sir Edw. Dering, knt. | of Surrenden ..... | 1627 |
| | *Now Sir Edward.* | *February* 1. | |
| 217 | Thomas Style, eſq. ..... | of Watringbury .. | —— |
| | *Now Sir Charles.* | *April* 21. | |
| 223 | Wm. Colepepyr, eſq... | of Aylesford ..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *May* 17. | |
| 226 | Sir Humph. Style, knt. | of Beckingham ... | —— |
| | | *May* 20. | |
| 242 | Michael Liveſey, eſq:.. | of Eaſtchurch..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *July* 11. | |
| 249 | Baſil Dixwell, eſq. ..... | of Terlingham.... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *February* 18. | |
| 307 | John Maney, eſq. ..... | of Linton..... | 1641 |
| | *Extinct.* | *June* 29. | |
| 310 | William Boteler, eſq... | of Teſton..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *July* 3. | |
| 333 | Norton Knatchbull ... | of Merſham-hatch | —— |
| | *Now Sir Edward.* | *Auguſt* 4. | |

| NUMB. | NAME. | RESIDENCE. | DATE. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 344 | Henry Heyman, eſq... | of Somerfield..... | 1641 |
| | *Now Sir Henry.* | *Auguſt* 12. | |
| 362 | Sir Hum. Tufton, knt. | Mote, *Maidſtone.* | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *December* 24. | |
| 366 | Sir John Rayney, bart. | of Wrotham..... | 1642 |
| | *Extinct.* | *January* 22. | |
| 373 | Sir Wm. Cowper, knt. | of Ratling-court | —— |
| | *Now Earl Cowper.* | *March* 4. | |
| 380 | John Williams, eſq. ... | of Minſter, *Thanet* | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *April* 22. | |
| 395 | Sir Rich. Hadres, knt. | of Hardres..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *June* 3. | |
| 408 | Stephen Lennard, eſq. | of Weſt Wickham | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *Auguſt* 15. | |
| 432 | Sir E. Waldegrave, knt. | of Hever-caſtle... | —— |
| | *Now Earl Waldegrave.* | *Auguſt* 1. | |

CREATED BY KING CHARLES II.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 460 | Richard Browne, eſq. | of Deptford..... | 1649 |
| | *Extinct* | *September* 1. | |
| 466 | Sir Arth. Slingſby, knt. | of Biſrons ..... | 1657 |
| | *Extinct.* | *October* 19. | |
| 492 | Baſil Dixwell, eſq..... | of Brome..... | 1660 |
| | *Extinct.* | *June* 19. | |
| | Charles Hudſon, eſq.... | of Eltham..... | —— |
| | *Now Sir Charles.* | *July* 3. | |
| 524 | Robert Auſten, eſq.... | of Bexley..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *July* 10. | |
| 526 | Robert Hales, eſq..... | of Bekeſbourn .... | —— |
| | *Now Sir Philip.* | *July* 12. | |
| 534 | Edw. Honywood, eſq. | of Evington .... .. | —— |
| | *Now Sir John.* | *July* 19. | |
| 569 | Humphry Miller, eſq. | of Oxenhoath..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *October* 13. | |
| 571 | John Beale, eſq. ..... | of Maidſtone..... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *October* 19. | |
| 582 | John Wroth, eſq. ..... | of Blenden-hall ... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *November* 29. | |

| NUMB. | NAME. | RESIDENCE. | DATE. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 588 | John Fagg, eſq..... | of Whiſton, *Suſſex* | 1660 |
| | *Now Sir John of Myſtole Chartham.* | *December* 15. | |
| —— | William Wilſon, eſq... | of Eaſtbourne, *Suſ.* | —— |
| | *Now Sir Tho. Spencer Wilſon, bt. of Charlton.* | *Mar.* 4. | |
| 647 | Nathaniel Powell, eſq. | of Ewherſt, *Suſſex* | —— |
| | *And of Wiarton in Kent. Extinct.* | *May* 10. | |
| 667 | John Selyard, eſq..... | of Delaware..... | 1661 |
| | *Extinct.* | *June* 18. | |
| 669 | Reginald Forſter, eſq.. | of EaſtGreenwich | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *July* 11. | |
| 679 | John Banks, eſq..... | of London..... | —— |
| | *And of Maidſtone. Extinct.* | *Auguſt* 22. | |
| 730 | Sir Richard Betenſon, | Wimbledon, *Surry* | 1663 |
| | *Afterwards of Bradbourn in Sevenoke. Extinct.* | *June* 7. | |
| 737 | Sir John Marſham, knt. | of Cuckſtone..... | —— |
| | *Now Lord Romney.* | *Auguſt* 12. | |
| 738 | Robert Barnham, eſq. | Boug$^{n}$ Monchelſea | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *Auguſt* 15. | |
| 754 | Sir Theoph. Biddulph, knt. | Weſtcombe... | 1664 |
| | *Now of Warwickſhire.* | *November* 2. | |
| 761 | Thomas Taylor, eſq... | Park houſe, *Maid.* | 1665 |
| | *Extinct.* | *January* 18. | |
| 765 | Sir John Shaw, knt. ... | of London..... | —— |
| | *Now Sir John of Eltham.* | *April* 15. | |
| 777 | Sir William Swan, knt. | of Southfleet..... | 1666 |
| | *Extinct.* | *March* 1. | |
| 779 | Maurice Diggs, eſq.... | of Chilham caſtle | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *March* 6. | |
| 783 | Sir Tho. Twiſden, knt. | of Bradbourn..... | —— |
| | *Now Sir John.* | *June* 13. | |
| 784 | Sir Anthony Aucher... | of Biſhopſbourn.. | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *July* 4. | |
| 821 | Thomas Williams, eſq. | of Eleham..... | 1674 |
| | *Now of Brecknockſhire.* | *November* 2. | |
| 822 | Robert Filmer, eſq...., | of Eaſt Sutton.... | —— |
| | *Now Sir John.* | *December* 24. | |
| 831 | Richard Head, eſq..... | of Rocheſter..... | 1676 |
| | | *June* 19. | |
| 836 | Thomas Dyke, eſq,.... | of Horeham, *Suſ.* | 1677 |
| | *Now Sir John of Lullingſtone.* | *March* 3. | |

847 Sir

| NUMB. | NAME. | RESIDENCE. | DATE. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 847 | Sir Hen. Oxenden, knt. | of Dean..... | 1678 |
| | *Now Sir Harry of Brome, near Barham.* | *May* 8. | |
| 878 | Timothy Thornhill, eſq. | Ollantigh ..... | 1682 |
| | *Extinct.* | *December* 24. | |
| 883 | George Chout, eſq..... | of Hinxhill..... | 1684 |
| | *Extinct.* | *September* 16. | |
| 886 | Richard Sandys, eſq.... | of Norbourn .... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *December* 15. | |

CREATED BY KING JAMES II.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 894 | Robert Guldeford, eſq. | of Hemſted..... | 1686 |
| | *Extinct.* | *February* 4. | |
| 907 | Sir Tho. Fytche, eſq. | of Eltham ..... | 1688 |
| | *Extinct.* | *September* 7. | |
| 908 | John Morden, eſq. .... | of Blackheath... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *September* 20. | |
| 909 | Jn. Narborough, eſq... | of Knowlton .... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *November* 5. | |

CREATED BY QUEEN ANNE.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 948 | Charles Sedley, eſq..... | of Southfleet .... | 1702 |
| | *Extinct.* | *July* 10. | |
| 956 | Sir Henry Furneſe, eſq. | of Walderſhare . | 1706 |
| | *Extinct.* | *June* 29. | |
| 973 | Wm. des Bouverie, eſq. | of London..... | 1714 |
| | *Now Earl of Radnor.* | *February* 19. | |

CREATED BY KING GEORGE I.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 978 | Sir W. Humphreys, knt | of London..... | —— |
| | *And of Hever-caſtle. Extinct.* | *November* 30. | |
| 981 | Gregory Page, eſq..... | of Greenwich ... | —— |
| | *Extinct.* | *December* 3. | |
| 995 | Thomas D'Aeth, eſq. | of Knowlton .... | 1716 |
| | *Now Sir Narborough.* | *July* 16. | |
| 1000 | Brook Bridges, eſq..... | of Goodneſtone, | 1718 |
| | *Now Sir Brook.* | *April* 19. | |
| 1009 | Sir W. Sanderſon, knt. | of Combe..... | 1720 |
| | *In Greenwich. Extinct.* | *July* 19. | |

| NUMB. | NAME. RESIDENCE. | DATE. |
|---|---|---|
| 1014 | Henry Fermor, esq..... of Sevenoke ..... *With remainder to Charles Eversfield of Denn, in Sussex, who now enjoys it. May 4.* | 1725 |
| 1015 | Sir Cha. Farnaby, knt. of Kippington... *Now Sir Charles Ratcliffe. July 21.* | 1726 |

CREATED BY KING GEORGE II.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1052 | Horatio Mann, esq..... of Linton..... *Resident at Florence; with limitation, in failure of issue male, to his brother Galfridus, and his heirs male. Now Sir Horace of Linton and Egerton. March 3.* | 1755 |
| 1064 | Sir Sam. Fluyder, knt. of London..... *And of Lee in this county. Now Sir Samuel. Nov. 14.* | 1759 |
| | Sampson Gideon, esq. of Belvidere ..... *Now Lord Eardley. May 19.* | —— |

CREATED BY KING GEORGE III.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1093 | Merrick Burrell, esq... of Sussex..... *With remainder in default of male issue to Peter Burrell, esq. of Beckenham, and his heirs male. Now Lord Gwydir. July 12.* | 1766 |
| 1099 | Rob. Ralph Foley, esq. of Halsted-place *Now removed into Surry. June 27.* | 1767 |
| 1101 | Peter Dennis, esq..... of St. Mary's.... *And of Blackmanstone, Romney-marsh. Extinct. Oct. 28.* | —— |
| | John Boyd, esq..... of Danson-hill... *The present baronet. May, 1775.* | 1775 |
| | William James, esq.... of Eltham..... *Now Sir Edward William. July 2.* | 1778 |
| | Richard Heron, esq. .. of Newark ..... *Now of Speldhurst. The present baronet. And to his heirs male; remainder to his eldest brother, Thomas Hern, esq. late of Chilham-castle, deceased, and his heirs male. July 25.* | —— |
| | Sir Rt. Gunning, K. B. of Horton ..... *Northamptonshire. Now of Eltham. October 27.* | —— |
| | Charles Middleton, esq. of Teston..... *The present baronet. And to his heirs male; remainder to Gerard Noel Edwards, esq. of Dartford, and his heirs male. September 4.* | 1781 |

Richard

| NUMB. | NAME. | RESIDENCE. | DATE. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Richard Rycroft..... | of Penſhurſt..... | 1783 |
| | *Now Sir Nelſon.* | *December* 10. | |
| | William Green, eſq..... | of Woolwich.... | 1786 |
| | *The preſent baronet.* | *June* 10. | |
| | Henry Hawley, eſq..... | of Leyborne..... | 1795 |
| | *The preſent baronet.* | *April* 11. | |

KING CHARLES II. at his reſtoration, intended to inſtitute an order of knighthood, as a reward to thoſe who had adhered faithfully to him in his diſtreſſes. They were to be called, *Knights of the Royal Oak*, and were to bear a ſilver medal with a device of the king in the oak, pendant to a ribbon, about their necks. But it was thought proper to lay it aſide, leaſt it might open thoſe wounds afreſh which, at that time were thought moſt prudent to be healed. The names of the intended knights in Kent, with the value of their eſtates, were as follows:

| | PER ANNUM. £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Edward Badbye of Hawley, eſq. | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| Edward Roper, eſq. | 2000 | 0 | 0 |
| William Roper, eſq. | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| Sir Richard Sandys of Norbourn, knt. | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| William Dyke of Rolvenden, eſq. | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Engliſh, eſq. | 700 | 0 | 0 |
| Stephen Lennard, eſq. of Weſt Wickham | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| Roger Twyſden, ſecond ſon of Sir Roger Twyſden of Eaſt Peckham, bart.... | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| John Clinkerd, eſq. of Sutton Valence, eſq. | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| Humphry Hide, junior, eſq. of Sundridge | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| William Kenwricke, eſq. | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| Sir Thomas Leigh of Eaſt Wickham, knt. | 1500 | 0 | 0 |
| Sir William Delaune of Sharſted, knt. | 2500 | 0 | 0 |

WHEN ALFRED new modelled the government of this realm, he divided the office of *præfect*,

or governor of the ſeveral counties into diſtinct offices, one of which he put under certain judges, or juſtices, and the other under the *vice-comites*, or ſheriffs. By the former of theſe juſtice was, in ſome meaſure, adminiſtered to the people throughout the realm from that time; but from the troubles that enſued, both before and after the conqueſt, there was no regular adminiſtration of it ſettled in this kingdom; the king ſending them, at his own pleaſure, and not in any conſtant courſe, *to ride* into the ſeveral counties for this purpoſe, from whence they were called *juſtices itinerant*. Sometimes they had power to hear all cauſes in general, and at others only ſpecial matters, as aſſiſes and the goals, &c. But peace and quiet beginning to flouriſh in the reign of king Henry II. in order that the people might have juſtice with more eaſe adminiſtered to them on all occaſions, and be enabled the better to attend their domeſtic buſineſs, that prince, by the advice of his great council, aſſembled at Northampton, on the feaſt of St. Paul, in the 23d year of his reign, anno 1176, divided this realm into ſix parts, or *circuits*; into each of which he ſent *three* of theſe *juſtices itinerant*, requiring of them at the ſame time an oath, for the due performance of their duties.

After this, in the 21ſt of Edward I. 1293, that king having, by his laſt ſtatute of Weſtminſter, given command that there ſhould be ſpecial juſtices aſſigned for taking of aſſiſes, &c. at certain times within the ſeveral counties of this realm, and no other. *Eight* were appointed for this purpoſe; two of which were for the counties of Kent, Eſſex, Hertford, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Bedford, and Buckingham. Which juſtices were diligently to attend that ſervice on ſuch days throughout the year, and at ſuch places as might moſt conduce to the advantage of the people.[a] Notwithſtanding this appointment of juſtices for the

[a] Dugd. Orig. 8, 52, 53. Decim. Script. Col. 1410.

purpoſe

purpoſe of aſſiſe and goal delivery, the *juſtices itinerant* ſtill continued to be appointed, and made their *itinerary* progreſs for particular purpoſes, ſuch as the trial of *quo warrantos*, and the diſputes ariſing from grants, charters, liberties, and the like, either brought on at the ſuit of the crown, or on the claim of individuals. After the 7th year of king Edward III. I find no more appointments of theſe *juſtices itinerant*, their place being afterwards wholly ſupplied by the juſtices of aſſiſe and *niſi prius*.

A liſt of theſe *juſtices itinerant* may be ſeen in Dugdale's Origines, as well as of the juſtices of the aſſiſe, lord-chancellors, and treaſurers, with other great officers of the law; among which the reader will find many great and reſpectable perſons of this county, clergy as well as laymen, continually named; but the number of them is ſo great, that it will well excuſe the addition of them in this place.

IT ſeems acknowledged, that the kings of this realm, in antient times, appointed perſons of eminent degree to be their *Lieutenants* in different counties, in caſe of domeſtic inſurrections, or the proſpect of foreign invaſions. Thus ROGER DE LEYBORNE was made *lieutenant* of this whole ſhire in the latter end of the reign of king Henry III. as Lambarde tells us.[b]

Theſe *temporary lieutenants* continued till the reign of king Henry VIII. when *lord lieutenants* began to be introduced as ſtanding repreſentatives of the crown, to keep the counties in military order; and accordingly we find them mentioned as known officers in the ſtatute of 4 and 5 Philip and Mary,[c] though they had not then been long in uſe; for Camden ſpeaks of them, in the time of queen Elizabeth, as *extraor-*

[b] Peramb. p. 359. [c] Blackſtone's Comm. vol. i. p. 410.

*dinary magiſtrates*, conſtituted only in times of difficulty and danger.

The *firſt permanent lord-lieutenant* that has come to my knowledge is—

Sir William Brooke, lord Cobham, knight of the Garter, &c. who was Lord-lieutenant from the 1ſt year of queen Elizabeth, 1559, to the time of his death, which happened in the 40th year of that reign, anno 1597.

Henry Brooke, lord Cobham, ſucceeded his father in 1598, and continued in this office till his attaint, anno 1 James I.[a]

Edward, lord Wotton, in the 6th year of king James I. He is mentioned in the charter to the city of Canterbury, dated that year. Sir Edward Hoby, knt. was *Cuſtos Rotulorum* in 1596, and died in the 16th of that reign.

James, duke of Lenox, was appointed Lord-lieutenant by commiſſion under the Great Seal, June 8, anno 18 James I.

Philip Herbert, earl of Montgomery, was Lord-lieutenaut in 1626, being the 2d year of king Charles I.

Heneage Finch, earl of Winchelſea, was conſtituted Lord Lieutenant and *Cuſtos Rotulorum* on July 10, 1616, and was ſo in 1667.

Charles Stuart, duke of Richmond and Lenox, was Lord-lieutenant in 1672, and died the end of that year.

Christopher Roper, lord Teynham, was conſtituted and appointed Lord Lieutenant and *Cuſtos Rotulorum* on January 1687, anno 3 James II.

Vere Fane, earl of Weſtmorland, and Henry, lord viſcount Sidney, were joint Lord Lieutenants, being ſo conſtituted in 1692. The former died the next year.

[a] Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 763.

Daniel

DANIEL FINCH, earl of Nottingham, was conſtituted Lord Lieutenant and *Cuſtos Rotulorum* in May 1702, being the 1ſt year of queen Anne, and reſigned the ſame on the 17th of April, 1704.

CHARLES FINCH, earl of Winchelſea, was made Lord Lieutenant and *Cuſtos Rotulorum* in 1704. He reſigned this office in 1705.

LEWIS WATSON, lord, afterwards created earl of Rockingham, was conſtituted Lord Lieutenant in 1705, in the room of Charles earl of Winchelſea, the doquet for that purpoſe bearing date the 16th of April that year. He continued in this office till his death, which happened on March 19, 1724.

JOHN SIDNEY, earl of Leiceſter, was conſtituted Lord Lieutenant on May 5, 1724, and at the ſame time Lionel Cranfield Sackville, duke of Dorſet, was appointed *Cuſtos Rotulorum*. The earl continued in this office till his death, which happened on the 27th of September 1737.

LEWIS WATSON, earl of Rockingham, was ſworn in Lord Lieutenant on the 12th of January 1737, and was likewiſe *Cuſtos Rotulorum*. He died in December 1745.

THOMAS WATSON, earl of Rockingham, brother to the laſt mentioned earl was, in his room, made Lord Lieutenant and *Cuſtos Rotulorum*, and died poſſeſſed of this office in the February following, 1746.

LIONEL CRANFIELD SAKVILLE, duke of Dorſet, was made Lord Lieutenant and *Cuſtos Rotulorum* in July 1746, and continued ſo till his death, which happened on the 9th of October 1765.

CHARLES SACKVILLE, duke of Dorſet, ſon of the former duke, was made Lord Lieutenant and *Cuſtos Rotulorum* on the 10th of February following, 1766, and continued in theſe offices till his death, on January 6, 1769.

JOHN

JOHN FREDERICK SACKVILLE, duke of Dorſet, was conſtituted Lord Lieutenant and *Cuſtos Rotulorum* in the room of his uncle, the laſt duke above-mentioned, and ſtill continues to hold theſe offices.

In anno 13 and 14 of king Charles II. the king's power of iſſuing theſe commiſſions of *lieutenancy* for the ſeveral counties of this realm was *confirmed* by parliament; and the lieutenants were enabled to arm and array perſons within their juriſdictions, as well to ſuppreſs inſurrections as to repel invaſions, in manner as the king ſhould direct, and to give commiſſions to the officers, and that they might preſent to the king the names of ſuch as they ſhould think fit to be *deputy lieutenants*, and upon his approbation of them, ſhould give them deputations; any two of whom, in the abſence of the lord lieutenant, or by his direction, might exerciſe and conduct the perſons ſo armed as aforeſaid.

Theſe commiſſions of *deputy lieutenancy* were given to but few, and thoſe of the firſt conſideration, till the ſecond year of George II. when, on the new eſtabliſhment of militia throughout England, they were granted, for the better execution of that ſervice to moſt of the principal gentlemen of the county.

THE origin of the *Houſe of Commons*, at leaſt in its preſent form, is a point that has been conteſted with great earneſtneſs by ſeveral eminent writers; the firſt expreſs *writ* that is found of any *knights of counties*, by name, ſummoned to our parliaments, as members, is that of the *clauſe-roll* of the 49th of king Henry III. anno 1264, requiring *ſheriffs* to ſummon *two knights* out of every county to parliament, as alſo to the cities and boroughs the like number of citizens and burgeſſes, and to the barons of the five ports a certain number of their diſcreeteſt men. Before that time the

the conſtituent members of the great council of the nation were, archbiſhops, biſhops, abbots, and priors, earls, barons, and all who held of the king *in capite*, as ſir H. Spelman, ſir W. Dugdale, and others of our beſt Engliſh antiquaries obſerve, which opinion is grounded on a clauſe in *Magna Charta*, as granted by king John to the people, in the 17th year of his reign, wherein that prince promiſes to ſummon all the above degrees and tenure, to meet at a certain place, within forty days notice, in order to hold a common council of the kingdom, to aſſeſs aids and ſcutages when neceſſary.

It is to be obſerved, that theſe writs, in the 49th year of Henry III.'s reign, to ſummon the knights, burgeſſes, and barons of the five ports, as above-mentioned, were iſſued when the barons had that prince in their power, after the battle of Lewes, and exerciſed royal authority in his name, and though there were ſeveral parliaments in king Edward I.'s time, before the 18th year of his reign, yet there is no teſtimony left upon record of any writs of ſummons till that year, in which, as may be ſeen by the bundle of writs then directed to the ſheriffs, two or three knights were directed to be choſen for each county, but no citizen or burgeſſes till the 23d of that reign. In conſequence of theſe writs ſome few counties returned three knights, but the generality two only, in which laſt number was the county of Kent.

## A LIST OF THE KNIGHTS RETURNED FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT,

FROM THE 18th YEAR OF KING EDWARD I. ANNO 1289, TO THE PRESENT TIME.

### IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD I.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 18th. *Parliament at Weſtminſter* ..... | HENRY de Apuldrefield, |
| | Robert de Septvans. |

23d.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 23d. *Parliament at Weſtminſter* ..... | Stephen Chute,<br>Walter de Ripple. |
| 25th. *At London*... | Luke de la Gare,<br>Richard de Scoland. |
| 26th. *At York*..... | Richard de Scoland,<br>John de Goſehall. |
| 28th. *At London*... | Waretius de Valoigns,<br>Richard de Scoland. |
| 28th. *At Lincoln*... | The ſame. |
| 29th. ——— | Waretius de Valoigns,<br>Henry de Apuldrefeld. |
| 33d. *At Weſtminſter* | Henry de Apuldrefeld,<br>Richard de Rokeſle. |
| 34th. *Council at Weſtminſter*..... | Waretius de Valoigns,<br>Richard de Rokeſle. |
| 35th. *Parliament at Carliſle* ..... | Bartholomew de Badleſmere,<br>Fulke Peyforer. |

IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD II.

| | |
|---|---|
| 2d. *At Weſtminſter.* | Waretius de Valoigns,<br>William de Grey. |
| 4th. ——— | Henry de Cobham,<br>Thomas de Sandwich. |
| 5th. ——— | Henry de Cobham,<br>Stephen de Greyes. |
| 5th. *At London*..... | Henry de Cobham *of Roundal.*<br>Thomas de Sandwich. |
| 6th. *At Weſtminſter.* | Fulk Peyforer.<br>Thomas de Sandwich. |
| 6th. ——— | John de Feld,<br>John de Cobham. |
| 7th. ——— | William de Grey,<br>Stephen de Ulcombe. |

8th.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|---|
| 8th. | *Parliament at York* | John Malmayns *of Waldwareſhare.* |
| | | William de Baſings. |
| 8th. | ——— | Henry Cobham, |
| | | John Malmayns. |
| 10th. | *Council at Lincoln* | Henry de Elſham, |
| | | Ralph Savage. |
| 12th. | *Parliament at York* | John Malmayns *de Waldwareſhare.* |
| | | John Savage. |
| 12th. | ——— | John Savage. |
| | | Walter de Thornton. |
| 15th. | ——— | John Savage, |
| | | Thomas de Sandwich. |
| 17th. | *At Weſtminſter* | Roger de Hegham, |
| | | William de Grey. |
| 19th. | ——— | William de Dene. |
| | | William de Grey, |
| 20th. | ——— | John de Segrave, knight, |
| | | John de Cobham. |

IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD III.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1ſt. | *At Lincoln* | John de Bournne, |
| | | Nicholas Malmayns. |
| 1ſt. | *At Weſtminſter.* | Robert de Stanegrave, |
| | | John de Bourne. |
| 1ſt. | ——— | John de Segrave, |
| | | John de Carleham. |
| 2d. | *At York* | John de Bourne, |
| | | Henry de Holles. |
| 2d. | *At New Sarum.* | Thomas de Bourne, |
| | | John de Bourne. |
| 2d. | *At York* | John de Bourne, |
| | | John Malmayns *de Waldwareſhare.* |

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 3d. *Parliament at New Sarum*..... | John de Bourne,[a] Thomas de Bourne. |
| 4th. *At Weſtminſter.* | John de Cobham, John de Ifeld. |
| 4th. *At Wincheſter.* | Philip de Pympe, Henry de Helles. |
| 5th. *At Weſtminſter.* | John de Ifeld, Ralph de St. Laurence. |
| 6th. ——— | Henry de Helles, Otto de Grandiſon. |
| 6th. ——— | John de Ifeld, John de Cobham. |
| 8th. ——— | Ralph Savage, William Morant. |
| 8th. *At York*..... | Thomas de Baa, Thomas de Ore, |
| 9th. ——— | John de Cobham, Robert de Stangrave. |
| 10th. *At Weſtminſter*..... | John de Cobham. William Morant. |
| 10th. ——— | Philip de Pympe, William Morant. |
| 11th. ——— | The ſame. |
| 11th. ——— | Ralph de Savage, Stephen de Aſhway. |
| 12th. *Council at Northampton*..... | Ralph de Savage, Stephen de Cobham. |

[a] This John de Bourn, in the 3d year of king Edward III. demanded his wages, as one of the knights for the community of the county of Kent, of the ſheriff, and he had writs of the Great Seal for levying the money on the community of this county. Mad. firm. Burg. p. 102. Placita Cor. Baronibus ex Rot. b.

12th.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 12th. *Parliament at Weſtminſter* | John Malemayns,<br>John Savage. |
| 13th. ——— | Thomas de Brochehille,<br>Humphry de Northwode. |
| 13th. ——— | Ralph Savage,<br>Henry de Valoyns. |
| 14th. ——— | Robert de Shirlonde,<br>William de Dene. |
| 14th. ——— | William de Orlaſton.<br>Thomas de Brockehille. |
| 14th. ——— | William de Orlaſton, |
| 15th. ——— | William de Orlaſton,<br>Thomas de Brochehille. |
| 17th. ——— | Roger de Higham, |
| 18th. *At New Sarum* | Stephen de Cobham,<br>William de Grey. |
| 20th. *At Weſtminſter* | Ralph de St. Leger,<br>Thomas de Gillingham. |
| 21ſt. ——— | Otto de Grandiſon,<br>Robert de Chene. |
| 22d. ——— | The ſame. |
| 25th. ——— | Otto de Grandiſon,<br>Arnold Savage. |
| 26th. ——— | Otto de Grandiſon, |
| 27th. *Council at Weſtminſter* | Thomas de Brockhille, |
| 28th. *Parliament at Weſtminſter* | Otto de Grandiſon,<br>John Fitzbernard. |
| 29th. ——— | John de Mereworth,<br>John Fitzbernard. |

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 31ſt. *Parliament at Weſtminſter* ..... | Otho de Grandiſon,<br>Thomas Apuldrefeld. |
| 31ſt. ——— | John de Mereworth,<br>Robert Chene. |
| 34th. ——— | William Apuldrefeld,<br>William Haldenne. |
| 34th. ——— | Thomas Apuldrefeld,<br>Thomas Colepeper. |
| 36th. ——— | Ralph de Ferningham,<br>Thomas Apuldrefeld. |
| 37th. ——— | Thomas Apuldrefeld,<br>John Barry. |
| 38th ——— | John Colepeper,<br>Thomas Apuldrefeld. |
| 40th. ——— | Richard Attleſe,<br>Richard Dygges. |
| 42d. ——— | Thomas Covene,<br>Thomas Colepeper. |
| 43d. ——— | Thomas Apuldrefeld,<br>Thomas Covene. |
| 45th. ——— | Thomas Apuldrefeld,<br>John Barry. |
| 45th. *Council at Wincheſter* ..... | Thomas Apuldrefeld, |
| 46th. *Parliament at Wincheſter* ..... | William de Pympe,<br>James de Peckham. |
| 47th. ——— | Stephen de Valoyns,<br>Richard Charles. |
| 50th. ——— | Thomas Fogge, *chevr.*<br>Thomas de Cobham. |
| 51ſt. ——— | Robert Paſſele,<br>Arnold St. Leger. |

IN

## IN THE TIME OF KING RICHARD II.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 1ſt. *Parliament at Weſtminſter*..... | John de Fremingham,<br>James de Peckham. |
| 2d. *At Glouceſter* ... | Thomas Fogge, *chevr.*<br>John de Brochehille, *chevr.* |
| 2d. *At Weſtminſter*, | Robert Paſſelle, *chevr.*<br>Ralph St. Leger, *chevr.* |
| 3d. ——— | William Stephens,<br>Nicholas Atte-Crouche. |
| 4th. *At Northampton* | Thomas Fogge, *chevr.*<br>William de Guldeford. |
| 5th. *At Weſtminſter* | Thomas de Fogge,<br>John de Fremingham. |
| 5th. ——— | Thomas Colepeper, *chevr.*<br>Thomas de Cobham, *chevr.* |
| 6th. ——— | Thomas Colepeper *de Farleigh*, *chevr.*<br>Thomas Brochehille. |
| 6th. ——— | Thomas Fogge, *chevr.*<br>James Peckham. |
| 7th. ——— | Thomas Colepeper,<br>Thomas Fogge, *chevr.* |
| 7th. *At New Sarum* | Robert Corby,<br>William Guldeford. |
| 8th. *At Weſtminſter* | John Cobham,<br>Robert Notbeame. |
| 8th. ——— | Thomas Fogge,<br>Thomas Cobham. |
| 9th. ——— | Thomas Brokhill,<br>Nicholas Adam. |
| 10th. ——— | William Bettenham,<br>Geoffrey Chaucer. |
| 11th. ——— | Thomas Fogge, *chevr*<br>James de Peckham. |

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 12th. *Parliament at Cambridge* ..... | James de Peckham, William Bettenham. |
| 13th. ——— | Arnold Savage, *chevr.* John Cobham. |
| 14th. *At Weſtminſter* ..... | Arnold Savage, *chevr.* Nicholas Potyn. |
| 16th. *At Wincheſter* | William Burcete, *chevr.* Nicholas Potyn. |
| 17th. *At Weſtminſter*..... | William Peche, *chevr.* John de Cobham. |
| 18th. ——— | Nicholas Haute, Thomas Brokhill. |
| 20th. ——— | Thomas Brokhill, Nicholas Potyn. |
| 21ſt. ——— | William Peche, *chevr.* John Cobham. |

IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY IV.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1ſt. *At Weſtminſter* | John de Fremingham, Thomas Brokhill. |
| 2d. ——— | Arnold Savage, *knight*, Thomas Brokhill. |
| 3d. ——— | The ſame. |
| 4th *At Wincheſter*, | The ſame. |
| 5th. *At Weſtminſter* | Reginald Braybroke, *chevr.* Arnold Savage, *chevr.* |
| 6th. *At Coventry*.... | Thomas de Clinton, *chevr.* John de Horn. |
| 8th. *At Weſtminſter* | Richard Clitherowe, Robert Clifford. |
| 9th. *At Glouceſter*... | Richard Clitherowe, John Darell. |

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 12th. *At Weſtmin-ſter*..... | Reginald Pympe,<br>William Haute *of Hautſborne.* |

IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY V.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1ſt. ——— | John Darell,<br>John Boteller. |
| 2d. *At Leiceſter*.... | Thomas Clynton, *chevr.*<br>John Darell. |
| 2d. *At Weſtminſter.* | Arnold Savage,<br>John Clifford. |
| 3d. ——— | John Wilcox,<br>William Chene. |
| 8th ——— | William Rickhill,<br>Thomas Towne. |
| 8th. ——— | William Simon,<br>William Lovel. |
| 9th. ——— | Thomas Elys,<br>Roger Bonyngton. |

IN THE TIME OF KING HENRY VI.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1ſt. ——— | Geffry Louther,<br>Reginald Pympe. |
| 2d. ——— | John Rickhill,<br>William Bury. |
| 3d. ——— | John Darell,<br>John Drylond. |
| 4th. *At Leiceſter*.... | John Lowther,<br>Edward Guldeford. |
| 5th. *At Weſtminſter.* | John Darell,<br>John Brambury. |
| 6th. *At Weſtminſter* | John Darell,<br>William Haute |

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 9th. *Parliament at Weſtminſter* | John Bambury,<br>William Scott. |
| 13th. ——— | Reginald Peckham,<br>Edward Guldeford, |
| 20th. ——— | James Fenys,<br>William Iſle. |
| 25th. *At Cambridge* | James Fenys,<br>William Cromer. |
| 27th. *At Weſtminſter* | John Chene,<br>William Cromer. |
| 28th. ——— | William Iſle,<br>John Waverſhed. |
| 29th. ——— | Laurence Peche,<br>William Haute. |
| 31ſt. *At Reading*.... | William Hextall,<br>John Thornbury. |
| 38th. *At Weſtminſter* | Thomas Kiriel,<br>Robert Horn. |

IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD IV.

| | |
|---|---|
| 7th. ——— | John Scott, *knt.*<br>James Peckham, *eſq.* |
| 12th. ——— | Henry Ferrers, *knt.*<br>John Sley, *eſq.* |
| 17th. ——— | John Fogg, *knt.*<br>John Brumpton. |

[*All the writs, indentures, and returns, from the 17th of king Edward IV. to the 1ſt year of king Edward VI. are loſt, except one imperfect bundle, No.* 33, *Henry VIII. in which* COLCHESTER, CANTERBURY, *and* ROCHESTER, *are miſſing.*]

## IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD VI.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 1ſt. *Parliament at Weſtminſter* ..... | - - -

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|
| 27th. *Parliament at Weſtminſter* ..... | Philip Sidney, *knt.*<br>Edward Wotton, *eſq.* |
| 28th. ——— | Henry Cobham alias Brooke, *knt.*<br>Thomas Scott, *knt.* |
| 31ſt. ——— | Henry Brooke, *eſq.*<br>Henry Cobham, *knt.* |
| 35th. ——— | Edward Hobie, *knt.*<br>Moile Finch, *knt.* |
| 39th. ——— | Robert Sidney, *knt.*<br>William Brooke, *knt.* |
| 43d. ——— | Henry Nevill, *knt.*<br>Francis Fane, *eſq.* |

## IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES I.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1ſt. ——— | John Scott, *knt.*<br>John Leveſon, *knt.* |
| 12th. ——— | - - - - - - - - - -<br>- - - - - - - - - - |
| 18th. ——— | Robert Sidney, *knt. viſcount Liſle*<br>George Fane, *eſq.* |
| 21ſt. ——— | Nicholas Tufton, *knt.*<br>Edwin Sandys, *knt.* |

## IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES I.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1ſt. ——— | Mildmay, *lord Bergherſh*,<br>Albertus Morton, *knt.* |
| 1ſt. ——— | Edward Hales, *bart.*<br>Edward Scott, *knt.* |
| 3d. ——— | Thomas Finch, *knt. and bart.*<br>Dudley Diggs, *knt.* |
| 15th. ——— | Roger Twyſden, *knt. and bart.*<br>Norton Knatchbull, *eſq.* |

16th.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|---|
| 16th. *Parliament at* | | Edward Dering, *bart.*[a] |
| *Weſtminſter* ..... | | John Colepeper, *knt. and in his room* |
| | | John Boys, eſq. |

## *INTERREGNUM.*

### IN THE TIME OF KING CHARLES II.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12th. —— | 1660. | Sir John Tufton, *bart.* |
| | | Sir Edward Dering, *bart.* |
| 13th. —— | 1661. | Sir Thomas Peyton, *bart.* |
| | | Sir John Tufton, *knt. and bart.* |
| 31ſt. —— | 1678. | Sir Vere Fane, *K. B.* |
| | | Edward Dering, *eſq.* |
| 31ſt. —— | 1679. | - - - - - - - - - - - |
| | | - - - - - - - - - - - |
| 32d. *At Oxford,* | | Sir Vere Fane, *K. B.* |
| 1681..... | | Edward Dering, *eſq.* |

### IN THE TIME OF KING JAMES II.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1ſt. *At Weſtminſter,* | | Sir William Twyſden, *bart.* |
| 1685..... | | Sir John Knatchbull, *bart.* |

### IN THE TIME OF WILLIAM AND MARY.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1ſt. —— | 1688. | Sir Vere Fane, *K. B.* |
| | | Sir John Knatchbull, *bart.* |
| 2d. —— | 1690. | The ſame.[b] |

[a] In 1641 he was expelled the houſe, by the powers who then ruled, for his loyalty, and captain Auguſtine Skinner was placed in his room, as a man more fit for their purpoſes.

[b] On Vere Fane's becoming a peer, ſir Thomas Roberts, bart. was choſen in his room.

## IN THE TIME OF KING WILLIAM III.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|---|
| 7th. | *Parliament at Weſtminſter*, 1695. | Hon. Philip Sidney, eſq.<br>Sir Thomas Roberts, *bart.* |
| 10th. | —— 1698. | Sir James Oxenden, *knt. and bart.*<br>Sir Stephen Lennard, *bart.* |
| 12th. | —— 1700. | Sir Thomas Hales, *bart.*<br>Thomas Meredith, *eſq.* |
| 13th. | —— 1701. | Sir Thomas Hales, *bart.*<br>William Campion, *eſq.* |

## IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ANNE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1ſt. | —— 1702. | Sir Thomas Hales, *bart.*<br>Sir Francis Leigh, *knt.* |
| 4th. | —— 1705. | Hon. William *viſcount* Villiers.<br>Sir Cholmley Dering, *bart.* |
| 7th. | —— 1708. | Sir Thomas Palmer,<br>Sir Stephen Lennard, *bart.*[a] |
| 9th. | —— 1710. | Sir Cholmley Dering, *bart.*[b]<br>Percival Hart, *eſq.* |
| 12th. | —— 1713. | Percival Hart, *eſq.*<br>Edward Knatchbull, *eſq.* |

## IN THE TIME OF GEORGE I.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1ſt. | —— 1714. | Hon. Mildmay Fane, *eſq.*[c]<br>William Delaune, *eſq.* |
| 7th. | —— 1722. | Sir Thomas Twyſden, *bart.*<br>Sir Edward Knatchbull, *bart.* |

[a] On his death David Polhill, eſq. was choſen in his room.
[b] On his death ſir William Hardres, bart. was choſen.
[c] On his deceaſe his brother John Fane, afterwards earl of Weſtmoreland, was choſen.

## IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE II.

| *Years of the Reign, &c.* | | *Names of the Knights in Parliament.* |
|---|---|---|
| 1ſt. *Parliament at* | | Sir Roger Meredith, *bart.* |
| *Weſtminſter*, | 1727. | Sir Robert Furneſe, *bart.*[d] |
| 7th. —— | 1734. | William *viſcount* Vane,[e] |
| | | Sir Edward Dering, *bart.* |
| 14th. —— | 1741. | Sir Edward Dering, *bart.* |
| | | Sir Roger Twiſden, *bart.* |
| 21ſt. —— | 1747. | The ſame. |
| 28th. —— | 1754. | Hon. Robert Fairfax, |
| | | Hon. Lewis Monſon Watſon. |

## IN THE TIME OF KING GEORGE III.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1ſt. —— | 1761. | Hon. Robert Fairfax, |
| | | Sir Windham Knatchbull, *bart.*[f] |
| 7th. —— | 1768. | Sir Brook Bridges, *bart.* |
| | | John Sackville, *eſq.*[g] |
| 14th. —— | 1774. | Hon. Charles Marſham, |
| | | Thomas Knight, junior, *eſq.* |
| 20th. —— | 1780. | Hon. Charles Marſham, |
| | | Filmer Honeywood, *eſq.* |
| 24th. —— | 1784. | The ſame. |
| 30th. —— | 1790. | Sir Edward Knatchbull, *bart.* |
| | | Filmer Honeywood, eſq. |
| 36th. —— | 1796. | Sir Edward Knatchbull, *bart.* |
| | | Sir William Geary, *bart.*[h] |

[d] On his death in 1733, ſir Edward Dering, bart. was choſen.

[e] He died a few days after his election, and ſir Chriſtopher Powell, knight, was choſen.

[f] He died in 1763, and ſir Brooke Bridges, bart. was choſen.

[g] On his ſucceeding to the dukedom of Dorſet, Sir Charles Farnaby of Keppington, bart. was choſen in his room.

[h] The poll laſted nine days, cloſing on June 16, when the numbers, as declared by the ſheriff, were for ſir Edward Knatchbull, 5202; for ſir Wm Geary, 4418; and for Mr. Honeywood, 4280.

IN

IN the reign of king Alfred the inhabitants of this iſland, following the example of the Danes, were ſo greedy of ſpoil and rapine, that no one could travel in ſafety, in order, therefore, to ſecure them from ſuch outrages and robberies, the king divided the ſeveral counties, or ſhires, into ſmaller diſtricts, which were called *laths*, or *trithings*, each of which he again divided into *hundreds*, taking the model of them, no doubt, from his German anceſtors, in whoſe country a like ſyſtem ſtill prevails.[a] It has been much queſtioned from whence *the hundreds* in England took their name, and what was the extent of their juriſdiction; however, the general opinion has been, that they were ſo called from their extending over a diſtrict, in which one *hundred* aſſeſſors, pledgers, or ſureties of the king's peace reſided, which plainly accounts for the great difference in the ſize of them; ſome in this county having but one or two pariſhes, whilſt others have twenty, or more, or the greateſt part of them within their bounds. Every *hundred* was governed at firſt by a particular officer, called a *centenary*, or *hundredary*, who was choſen into that office by all the elder ſort of the people, who met together at the uſual place in the *hundred* on a certain day appointed for that purpoſe. This officer held his court, called the *hundred-gemote*, or *hundred court*, for particular caſes within the extent of his juriſdiction; but there was an appeal from it to the court of the *lath*, or *trithing*.

Theſe *laths* in this county were *five* in number, and were ſo called from the Saxon word, *gelathian*, to aſſemble together; for in this court all the principal men of the *hundreds*, within the bounds of the *lath*, aſ-

[a] Chauncy's Hertf. p. 25. Spelm. Gloſſ. *verb. hund.*

ſembled

ſembled together, to debate and determine the matters brought before them; though if they were found too difficult, they were ſent up from hence to the ſuperior *county-court*, as to a parliament of the whole body of the county. All which has been already treated of more at large. King Alfred, for the ſtill better eſtabliſhment of the peace and ſecurity of his people, ſubdivided theſe hundreds into *tithings*, ſo called, becauſe in them ten families were caſt into a ſociety, or as they were termed in this county, *boroughs*, of the Saxon word, *borh*, ſignifying a pledge or ſurety; each of whom was bound to the king for the peaceable and good behaviour of the others. The chief in each of theſe tithings, as they were called in the weſt, was named *tienheofod*, or *theohungman*, from his office; and with us, *friborg*, from *fri*, free, and *borgh*, a ſurety, or pledge, as much as to ſay, a free pledge. This fribourg or borſholder's office was, at its firſt inſtitution in this court, called the *lete*, or *view of frank pledge*, (which, being eſteemed the king's court, has been long ſince granted by charter to the lords of hundreds and manors,) to determine the ſmaller differences between neighbours, and ſuch treſpaſſes as belonged to their farms; the greater matters being reſerved to the *hundredaries*. Beſides this, the king ordained, that every natural inhabitant, or Engliſhman born, ſhould live in ſome *hundred*, or *tithing*, that would be bound for his appearance, to anſwer the law; but he that could not find ſuch ſurety, ſhould abide the ſeverity of the law, and if ſuch offender happened to make his eſcape, then all that hundred or borough incurred a mulct or fine, to be impoſed by the king. By which means, it is ſaid, king Alfred reduced his ſubjects to ſuch a ſtate of honeſty and good behaviour, that having cauſed *bracelets of gold* to be hung upon poſts in the highways, to delude the greedineſs of paſſengers, none dared to touch

touch them.[a] This wholeſome diſtribution of juſtice by king Alfred laſted but a ſmall time; for the kings his ſucceſſors, either for the ſake of improving their revenues by the profits of theſe hundreds, or of obliging ſome of their nobles, granted ſome of them, and let others to farm to their great men, or ſheriffs, under a rent, or otherwiſe; ſo that this office of *hundredary* was ſoon laid aſide, and the juriſdiction became veſted in the lord of the hundred, as abovementioned. But it was not long before great evils aroſe from this change; for, either through the negligence or connivance of the lord of the hundred, great miſchiefs happened to thoſe that travelled through theſe diſtricts; murders were committed, robberies perpetrated, houſes burnt, and theft practiſed among the people, ſo that few could paſs through the country in quiet, or reſide at home in ſafety.

In this unciviliſed ſtate, as it may well be termed, this country remained even to the time of king Edward I. who, in the 13th year of his reign, by the ſtatute of Wincheſter, made many regulations for the better government of the police, and the re-eſtabliſhment of quiet and ſafety throughout the kingdom. For this purpoſe he inſtituted a *hue and cry*, which made the whole county anſwerable for the robbery and the damages thereof, and a watch, which ſhould be kept in every town from ſun-ſetting to ſun-riſing, from the time of Aſcenſion to Michaelmas. He ordained that the highways ſhould be cleared of wood, to prevent the felons concealing themſelves, and directed that every man, according to his ſubſtance, ſhould have arms in his houſe, to purſue the felon effectually. He likewiſe conſtituted *two conſtables* in every hundred, to view the armour, and preſent the defaults thereof, and the defaults of tourns of high-

[a] Chauncy's Hertf. p. 25 et ſeq. Spelm. Gloſſ. Brady's Hiſt. Eng. p. 83. Lamb. Peramb. p. 22.

ways,

ways, &c. ſince which time acts of parliament have enlarged the power and authority of theſe officers, who are employed to keep the public peace, and convey the warrants of magiſtrates to the *petty conſtables* and *borſholders* of the ſeveral vills, boroughs, and pariſhes within their hundreds. They are called *chief* or *high conſtables*, to diſtinguiſh them from the *petty conſtables* of pariſhes and boroughs, and were antiently choſen and ſworn in the tourns held for the hundred; but the ſheriff, or lord thereof, neglecting to hold their courts at the uſual times, they are, in ſuch default, now uſually appointed at the general court of quarter ſeſſion.

THIS COUNTY has been for ſome time divided into two diſtricts, uſually called *Weſt* and *Eaſt Kent*, which nearly divide it into two equal parts, in which are contained the *five laths*, or great diſtricts, which comprehend the whole county of Kent.

The *weſtern diviſion*, or *Weſt Kent*, contains the laths of Sutton at Hone, and Aylesford, and the lower diviſion of the lath of Scray.

The *eaſtern diviſion*, or *Eaſt Kent*, contains the laths of St. Auguſtine and Shipway, and the upper diviſion of the lath of Scray.

The extent of both theſe diſtricts, as well as of the laths, may be eaſily traced out by the dotted line on the map of the whole county, prefixed to this work.

Theſe *laths* are divided into *fourteen bailiwics* and *ſixty-three hundreds*, as well for the diſtribution of juſtice by the ſheriff and his bailiffs, as by the juſtices of the peace; and within the limits of the above are *thirteen franchiſes and liberties*, moſt of which have courts of record belonging to them. Theſe hundreds are again divided into *pariſhes*, the inſtitution of which, in England, many of our writers have aſcribed to archbiſhop Honorius, about the year 636, build-

ing

ing their opinion on the authority of archbiſhop Parker; but Mr. Selden ſeems rightly to underſtand the archbiſhop's expreſſion, *provinciam ſuum in parochias diviſit*, of dividing his provinces into *new dioceſes*. The diſtinction of pariſhes which now prevails could never be the model of Honorius, nor the work of any one age; the reduction of a whole country into ſuch formal limitations muſt have advanced gradually, and have been the reſult of many generations.[a] There are four hundred and thirteen of theſe pariſhes in this county, moſt of which are ſubdivided into vills, boroughs, and hamlets; among which are fifteen ſeparate juriſdictions, or liberties, not in any hundred, having conſtables or officers of their own, and three excluſive juriſdictions from the juſtices of the county, as is the liberty of Romney-marſh, and that of the cinque ports.

*The lath of Sutton at Hone* contains the bailiwics of Sutton Dartford and Sutton Bromley, and the hundreds of

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Blackheath, | Little and Leſnes, | Ruxley, |
| Bromley and Beckenham, | Dartford and Wilmington, | Weſtram and Etonbridge, and |
| Axtane, alias Clackſtone, | Codeſheath alias Codeſede, | Somerden. |

*The lath of Aylesford* contains the bailiwics of Hoo, Twiford, Eyhorne, and the lowy of Tunbridge, and the hundreds of

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hoo, | Wrotham,[b] | Twyford, |
| Shamel, | Littlefield, | Brenchley and Horſemonden, |
| Toltingtrow, | Watchlingſtone and the lowy of Tunbridge, | Eyhorne, alias Aihorne, and |
| Chatham and Gillingham,[a] | Weſt, alias Little Barnfield, | Maidſtone. |
| Larkfield, alias Lavercfield, | | |

*The*

[a] Kennet's Paroch. Antiq. p. 586.

[b] Kilburne's Surv. and Lambarde's Peramb. This hundred was formerly diſtinguiſhed as two ſeparate half hundreds, viz. the half

*The lath of Scray*, formerly called Sherwinhope, and in Domeſday Wiwareleſt, contains the bailiwics of Milton, alias Middleton, Scray, and of the Seven Hundreds, and of the hundreds of

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Marden, | Selbrittenden, | Middleton alias Milton, |
| Barkley, | Blackborne, alias Blacetune, | Teynham, |
| Great, alias Eaſt Barnfield,[c] | Tenterden, | Faverſham, |
| Cranbrook, | Bircholt, antiently Barony, | Boughton alias Bocton. |
| Rolvenden, | | |

The hundreds of Calehill, Chart and Longbridge, Felborough, and Wye, commonly called the Four Hundreds, once belonged to this lath; but they have been a long while ſevered from it, and added to the lath of Shipway.

*The lath of Shipway*, alias Shepway, called in Domeſday, Limwareleſt, contains the bailiwics of Stowting, Shipway, and Chart and Longbridge, and the hundreds of

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Calehill, | Oxney, | Worth, |
| Chart and Longbridge, | Aloeſbridge, | Strete, |
| Felborough, alias Feleborg, | Newchurch, | Heane, |
| Bircholt Franchiſe, | St. Martin's Pountney, | Stowting, |
| Wye, | Langeport, | Lonıngborough, and |
| | Ham, | Folkeſtone. |

*The lath of St. Auguſtine*, called alſo formerly, Hedelinth, contains the bailiwics of Bridge, and Eaſtry, and the hundreds of

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Beuſborough, | Eaſtry, alias Eſtrege, | Preſton, |
| Cornilo, | Wingham, | Ringſlow alias Tenet, |

half hundred of Chatham, and the half hundred of Gillingham and Graine; in the ſame manner was the hundred of Bromley and Beckenham, Chart and Longbridge, and others, that have two names joined for one hundred.

[c] Eaſt and Weſt Barnefield are, in fact, but two half hundreds, and formerly had their ſeparate names as ſuch; which diviſion was occaſioned by their lying in two different laths.

Downhamford,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Downhamford, | Bridge and Petham, | Weſtgate, and |
| Kinghamford, | Blengate, | Whiſtaple. |

The particular pariſhes in each of theſe hundreds are deſcribed in the future courſe of this hiſtory.

There are alſo *ſeveral towns and places* in this county, which have conſtables and other officers of the like nature within themſelves, and are not ſubject to the conſtable of any hundred; ſome of theſe are in the *forraigne*, and others in their *particular* liberties. The following is a liſt of them both, and of thoſe in the *forraigne*, or foreign, a term made uſe of to expreſs a place that is in the juriſdiction of the county at large, and not in any liberty or franchiſe, which has a particular juriſdiction of its own, and in which the juſtices of the county cannot intermeddle, viz.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aſhford town, | Hilden borough, in Tunbridge, | Queenborough, Corporation of |
| Aylesford town, | Longport borough, near Canterbury, | Seaſalter, |
| Chriſt Church, in Canterbury, | Weſt or Town Malling, | South borough in Tunbridge, and |
| Graveſend and Milton, Corporation of | Newenden townſhip | Tunbridge town. |
| Hadlow borough, | Oſpringe, | |
| Braſted ville, | | |

The *following places* are in their particular liberties, in which the juſtices of the county cannot intermeddle.

CANTERBURY, which is a city and county of itſelf, and a corporation, under the juriſdiction of its own juſtices.

ROCHESTER is likewiſe a city and corporation under the juriſdiction of its own juſtices.

MAIDSTONE *town* is a corporation, which, together with the pariſh of Maidſtone, is under the juriſdiction of its own juſtices.

ROMNEY *marſh* is likewiſe a liberty under the juriſdiction of its own bailiff and jurats.

In

In the *liberty of the cinque ports* are the following places, which have conſtables and officers of their own, and are under the juriſdiction of their own juſtices. This liberty has a court of chancery, and a court of admiralty, and it had antiently a court, called the *caſtle-gate* court, for the determination of pleas touching the guarding of the caſtle of Dover.

SANDWICH, with the three churches in the ſame; Deale, with the church; Ramſgate in St. Laurence, but not the church; St. Nicholas, but not the church; both in Thanet; Walmer, with the church; and part of Woodneſborough, but not the church, are in the liberty of the port and town of Sandwich.

DOVER, with its two churches; Birchington, with the church; part of Charlton, but not the church; part of Hougham, but not the church; St. John's with Margate, with the church; St. Peter's, with the church; Ringwold, with the church; and Woodchurch in Thanet, the church of which is demoliſhed, are in the liberty of the port and town of Dover.

Part of NEW ROMNEY, viz. the town with the church; part of Old Romney, with the church; part of Apledore, but not the church; part of Brenzet, but not the church; part of Ivechurch, but not the church; part of Snargate, but not the church; ſo much of Bromhill as is in Kent, are within the liberty of the port and town of New Romney.

HITH, with the church, part of Weſt Hith, but not the church, are in the liberty of the port and town of Hith.

BEAKSBORNE, with the church, and the Grange in Gillingham, but not the church, are in the liberty of the port and town of Haſtings in Suſſex.

FORDWICH, with the church, is a member of the port and town of Sandwich, and within the liberty of the ſame.

Part of FOLKESTONE, viz. the town, with the church; part of Faverſham, viz. the town, with the

church, are members of the port and town of Dover, and within the liberty of the ſame.

TENTERDEN is a member of the antient town of Rye in Suſſex, one of the additional cinque ports.

There are, beſides the above, ſeveral franchiſes and liberties *within the forraigne*, ſome of which have courts of record in them, though moſt of them are now diſuſed.

*The liberty of the archbiſhop of Canterbury* claims over a great number of manors, pariſhes, and parts of pariſhes in this county, being ſuch as have been at any time in the poſſeſſion of the ſee of Canterbury, ſince the ſeparation made of the archbiſhop's revenues, and thoſe of the priory of Chriſt-church, in the time of archbiſhop Lanfranc. This liberty has in it a court of record, to hold plea of all actions, real, perſonal, and mixed; but it has been a long time diſuſed.

*The liberty of the dean and chapter of Canterbury* claims likewiſe over a great number of manors, pariſhes, and parts of pariſhes, being ſuch as were the eſtates of the late priory of Chriſt-church, and were granted, with all their liberties, privileges, and exemptions, to the dean and chapter, by king Henry VIII. in the 33d year of his reign. This liberty had a like court of record as the former, which has alſo been long ſince diſuſed.

*The liberty of Aſhford* claims over that town and all the pariſh, except the boroughs of Henwood, alias Hewet, and Rudlow. It has in it a court of record, to hold pleas for all actions, the debt or damages whereof do not exceed twenty marks.

*The liberty of St. Auguſtine*, near Canterbury, commonly called, *The high court of the liberty of the late diſſolved monaſtery of St. Auguſtine*, near the city of Canterbury, claims over ten whole pariſhes, beſides part of upwards of one hundred others, and into the city of Canterbury. It has, among other privileges, a

court

court of record, to hold pleas of all actions, real, perſonal, and mixed, without limitation of any ſum; but it has been long ſince diſuſed.

*The liberty of Eleham*, which has no court of record for pleas.

*The liberty of Graveſend and Milton*, near Graveſend, claims over both thoſe pariſhes, and has in it a corporation and a court of record.

*The liberty of the duchy of Lancaſter* claims over certain manors, lands, and pariſhes in this county, being ſuch as were part of it in the reigns of king Henry IV. and V. But this liberty has no court of record for pleas in this county.

*The liberty of Liminge* has no court of record for pleas.

*The liberty of Queenborough* has a corporation and court of record, which claims over the town and ville of Queenborough.

*The liberty of the biſhop of Rocheſter* claims over all ſuch manors, lands, and pariſhes, as are, or have been part of the revenues of this biſhopric. It has a court of record for pleas in all actions, real, perſonal, and mixed, but it has long ſince been diſuſed.

*The liberty of Sevenoke* has no court of record for pleas.

*The liberty of Wrotham* has no court of record for pleas.

*The liberty of Wye* has a court of record for pleas, in all actions, real, perſonal, and mixed.

As the county of Kent is divided into the two great diſtricts of *Eaſt* and *Weſt Kent*, ſo is the diſtribution of juſtice in it; for though every juſtice of the peace is, by the commiſſion, appointed for the whole county at large, yet he uſually confines his acting in that office, except upon extraordinary occaſions, to that diſtrict of the two in which he reſides, and in common matters, to that particular diviſion of juſtices of the lath and hundred to which he belongs.

Each diſtrict of Eaſt and Weſt Kent holds its own *court of ſeſſions* four times in the year, that is, twice originally, and twice by adjournment, viz. the Eaſtern Diſtrict originally at the Old Caſtle of Canterbury, on the Tueſday in the week after the Epiphany and the feaſt of St. Thomas Becket, from whence it is adjourned for the Weſtern Diſtrict to the county town of Maidſtone on the Thurſdays next enſuing; and the Weſtern diſtrict originally at Maidſtone on the Tueſdays next after the feaſts of Eaſter and Michaelmas, from whence it is adjourned for the Eaſtern Diſtrict to Canterbury on the Fridays next enſuing.

There are in this county thirty-four market towns. Viz.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Canterbury, | Graveſend, | Deal, |
| Rocheſter, | Lenham, | Dover, |
| Maidſtone, | Town Malling, | Faverſham, |
| Aſhford, | Milton, near Sittingborne, | Folkeſtone, |
| Bromley, | Sevenoke, | Hith, |
| Chatham, | Smarden, | Lid, |
| Cranbrook, | Tunbridge, | Margate, |
| St. Mary Cray,[a] | Weſterham, | Ramſgate, |
| Dartford, | Woolwich, | New Romney, |
| Eleham,[b] | Wrotham, | Sandwich, |
| Greenwich, | Wye, | and |
| Goudhurſt, | | Tenterden. |

Which laſt eleven are within the cinque ports.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT of this county is divided into the Dioceſe of the Archbiſhopric of Canterbury, and the Dioceſe of the Bi-

[a] The market at St. Mary Cray has been diſcontinued from the time the market-place was blown down by the great ſtorm in the year 1703.

[b] Eleham market is held on Palm Monday yearly. Eltham as as well as other places have the privilege of a market, but they are diſcontinued.

ſhopric

ſhopric of Rocheſter; each of which is divided into ſeveral *deanries*, and thoſe again into *pariſhes*.

The dioceſe of Canterbury has in it eleven deanries, in which are the following pariſhes:

## *BRIDGE DEANRY*

HAS IN IT THE PARISHES OF

ADISHAM,
Aſh, near Sandwich,
Beakſborne,
Boughton Aluph,
Barham,
Biſhopſborne,
Bridge,
Brooke,
Challock,
Chartham,
Chilham,
Chillenden,
Crundal,
Elmſtone,
Godmerſham,
Gunſton,
Upper Hardres,
Ickham,
Kingſton,
Littleborne,
Molaſh,
Nonington,
Patrickſborne,
Petham,
Preſton, near Fordwich,
Staple,
Stelling,
Stodmarſh,
Sturmouth,
Waltham,
Wickhambreaux,
Wimlingſwold,
Wingham, and
Wye.

## *CANTERBURY DEANRY.*

St. Alphage,
All Saints,
St. Andrew,
St. George,
St. Margaret,
St. Mary Bredin,
St. Mary Bredman,
St. Mary Burgate,
St. Mary Northgate,
St. Mildred,
St. Paul, and
St. Peter, in Canterbury,
Colmus Blean,
St. Martin,
St. Dunſtan,
Milton,
Fordwich,
Hackington, alias St. Stephen's,
} Near Canterbury.
Harbledown, St. Michael,
Harbledown, St. Nicholas,
Lower Hardres,
Nackington,
Sturry,
Thanington, and
Weſtgate, near Canterbury.

## *CHARING DEANRY.*

Aſhford,
Benenden,
Betherſden,
Biddenden,
Boughton Malherbe,
Charing,
Great Chart,
Little Chart,
Cranbrooke,
Eaſtwell,
Egerton,
Frittenden,
Halden,
Hawkhurſt,
Hedcorne,
Hothfield,
Kennington,
Newenden,
Pluckley,
Rolvenden,
Sandhurſt,
Smarden,
Tenterden, and
Weſtwell.

## *DOVER DEANRY.*

Alcham,
Bewsfield alias Whitfield,
Buckland, near Dover,
Capel, near Folkeſtone,
Charlton, near Dover,
Cheriton,
Cliff, near Dover,
St. James's, and
St. Mary's, Dover,
Ewell,
Folkeſtone,
Guſton,
Hawking,
Hougham,
Liddon,
St. Margaret's, near Dover,
Newington, near Hith,
Polton,
River,
and
Swingfield.

## *ELEHAM DEANRY.*

Acriſe,
Bircholt,
Braborne,
Denton, near Eleham,
Eleham,
Elmſted,
Haſtingligh,
Hith,
Horton Monks,
Liminge,
Poſtling,
Padleſworth, near Dover,
Saltwoood,
Stanford,
Stowting, and
Wooton.

## *LIMNE DEANRY.*

Aldington,
Apledore,
Bilſington,
Blackmanſtone,
Bonnington,
Brenzet,
Brookland,
Burmarſh,
Dimchurch,
Eaſtbridge,
Ebeney,
Fairfield,
Hurſt,
Hinxhill,
Weſt Hith,
Hope,
Ivechurch,
Kenarton,
Kingſnoth,
Lid,
Limne,
St. Mary's, near Romney,
Merſham,
Midley,
Newchurch,
Orgarſwick,
Orleſtone,
New and Old Romney,
Rucking,
Sellindge,
Sevington,
Shadoxhurſt,
Smeeth,
Snargate,
Snave,
Stone, in Oxney,
Warehorne,
Wilſborough,
Witterſham, and
Woodchurch.

## *OSPRINGE DEANRY.*

Badlemere,
Buckland, near Faverſham,
Boughton Blean,
Davington,
Doddington,
Eaſling,
Faverſham,
Goodneſton, near Faverſham,
Harty,
Graveny,
Hernhill,
Leveland,
Linſted,
Luddenham,
Newnham,
Norton,
Ore,
Oſpringe,
Preſton, near Faverſham,
Otterden,
Selling,
Sheldwich,
Stallisfield,
Stone, near Faverſham,
Tenham, and
Throwley.

*SANDWICH*

## *SANDWICH DEANRY.*

Barſon,
Betſhanger,
Coldred,
Deal,
Eaſtry,
Eythorne,
Ham,
Knolton,
Eaſt Langdon,
Weſt Langdon,
Great Mongeham,
Little Mongeham,
Norborne,
Ringwold,
Ripple,
St. Clement's, } In Sandwich.
St. Mary's, } In Sandwich.
St. Peter's, } In Sandwich.
Shebbertſwold,
Sholden,
Stonar,
Sutton, near Dover.
Tilmanſtone,
Walderſhare,
Walmer,
Woodneſborough and
Worde.

## *SITTINGBORNE DEANRY.*

Bapchild,
Bicknor,
Bobbing,
Borden,
Bredgar,
Eaſtchurch,
Elmley,
Halſtow the Lower,
Hartlip,
Iwade,
Kingſdowne, near Sittingborne,
Layſdowne,
Milſted,
Milton, near Sittingborne,
Minſter, in Shepey,
Murſton,
Newington, near Sittingborne,
Rainham,
Rodmerſham,
Sittingborne,
Stockbury,
Tong,
Tunſtall,
Upchurch,
Warden,
and
Wichling.

## *SUTTON DEANRY.*

Boxley,
Bredhurſt,
Bromfield,
Berſted,
Boughton Monchelſea,
Chart, near Sutton,
Detling,
Frinſted,
Goudhurſt,
Harrietſham,
Hollingborne,
Hucking,
Langley,
Leeds,
Lenham,
Linton,
Looſe,
Maidſtone,
Marden,
Otham,
Staplehurſt,
Eaſt Sutton,
Sutton Valence,
Thurnham,
Ulcombe, and
Wormſell.

## *WESTBERE DEANRY.*

Birchington, in Thanet,
Chiſtlet,
Herne,
Hoth,
St. John's, } Thanet.
St. Laurence, } Thanet.
Minſter, } In Thanet.
Monkton, } In Thanet.
St. Nicholas, } In Thanet.
St. Peter's, } In Thanet.
Sarre, } In Thanet.
Reculver, } In Thanet.
Seaſalter, } In Thanet.
Swaycliffe,
Weſtbere,
Whitſtaple,
and
Wood alias Woodchurch, in Thanet.

In all two hundred and eighty-two pariſhes.

The *dioceſe* of Rocheſter has in it four deanries, in which are the following pariſhes:

## *DARTFORD DEANRY*

HAS IN IT THE PARISHES OF

Beckenham,
Bromley,
Charlton, near Greenwich,
Cheſilhurſt,
Chelsfield,
Foot's Cray,
St. Mary Cray,
Paul's Cray,
North Cray,
Cowdham,
Dartford,
Deptford,
Erith,
Eltham,
Farnborough,
Eaſt Greenwich,
Horton Kirkby,
Lee,
Lewſham,
Lullingſtone,
Plumſted,
Sutton at Hone,
Eaſt Wickham,
Weſt Wickham,
Wilmington, and
Woolwich.

## *MALLING DEANRY.*

Addington,
Allington, near Maidſtone,
Aſhurſt,
Eaſt Barming,
Weſt Barming,
Bidborough,
Birling,
Brenchley,
Capel, near Tunbridge,
Cowden,
Ditton,
Eatonbridge,
Weſt Farleigh,
Hadlow,
Horſmonden,
Kemſing,
Laborne,
Lamberhurſt,
Lygh,
Weſt Malling,
Mereworth,
Nettleſted,
Offham,
Paddleſworth, near Snodland,
Weſt Peckham,
Pembury,
Ryarſh,
Seale,
Shipborne,
Speldhurſt,
Teſton,
Trottiſcliffe,
Tudeley,
Tunbridge,
Watringbury,
Weſterham, and
Yalding.

## *ROCHESTER DEANRY.*

Allhallows,
Aſh, near Wrotham,
Aylesford,
Burham,
Chalk,
Chatham,
Cobham,
Cookſtone,
Cowling,
Denton, near Graveſend,
Fawkham,
Frindſbury,
Graveſend,
Halling,
High Halſtow,
Hartley,
Higham,
Hoo,
Kinſdown, near Wrotham,
Longfield,
Luddeſdon.
St. Margaret's, near Rocheſter,
St. Mary's Hoo,
Milton, near Graveſend,
Merſton,
Nutſted,
St. Nicholas, Rocheſter,
Ridley,
Shorne,
Snodland,
Southfleet,
Stoke,
Stone, near Dartford,
Stroud,
Swanſcombe, and
Woldham.

*SHOREHAM*

## *SHOREHAM DEANRY,*

WHICH IS A PECULIAR OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, HAS IN IT THE FOLLOWING PARISHES:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bexley, | Halſted, | Northfleet, |
| Braſted, | Hayes, | Orpington, |
| Chevening | Hever, | Otford, |
| Chidingſtone, | Hunton, | Eaſt Peckham, |
| Cliff at Hoo, | St. James, in | Penſhurſt, |
| Crayford, | Graine, | Sevenoke, |
| Darent, | Ifield, | Shoreham, |
| Downe, | Ightham, | Stanſted, |
| Eynsford, | Keſton, | Sundridge, and |
| Eaſt Farleigh, | Eaſt Malling, | Wrotham |
| Farningham, | Meopham, | with |
| Gillingham, | Nockholt, | Plaxtool. |

In all one hundred and thirty-two pariſhes.

HAVING thus deſcribed the ſeveral diviſions of this county, I ſhall now take ſome notice of the *Air*, *Soil*, *natural and artificial Products*, and other particulars relating to the preſent ſtate of it.

The *air* in this county is various, according to the different parts of it: in many it is as healthy and pure as any can be in this iſland; but on the north ſide of the great road, leading from London to Dover, almoſt as far as Canterbury, and from thence again on the ſame ſide of *that* into the iſle of Thanet, there is a long ſpace of country, lying near the banks of the Thames and the Medway, along the Swale, and adjoining to the river Stour below Canterbury, in which the air is groſs, foggy, and much ſubject to intermittents, owing to the large tracts of low, ſwampy, marſh grounds, among which there are ſuch quantities of ſtagnating waters, as render the country near them exceedingly unwholſome, eſpecially in the autumnal quarter. Romney-marſh labours under the ſame inconvenience, and for the ſame reaſons.

The

The *dioceſe* of Rocheſter has in it four deanries, in which are the following pariſhes:

## *DARTFORD DEANRY*

HAS IN IT THE PARISHES OF

Beckenham,
Bromley,
Charlton, near Greenwich,
Cheſilhurſt,
Chelsfield,
Foot's Cray,
St. Mary Cray,
Paul's Cray,
North Cray,
Cowdham,
Dartford,
Deptford,
Erith,
Eltham,
Farnborough,
Eaſt Greenwich,
Horton Kirkby,
Lee,
Lewſham,
Lullingſtone,
Plumſted,
Sutton at Hone,
Eaſt Wickham,
Weſt Wickham,
Wilmington, and
Woolwich.

## *MALLING DEANRY.*

Addington,
Allington, near Maidſtone,
Aſhurſt,
Eaſt Barming,
Weſt Barming,
Bidborough,
Birling,
Brenchley,
Capel, near Tunbridge,
Cowden,
Ditton,
Eatonbridge,
Weſt Farleigh,
Hadlow,
Horſmonden,
Kemſing,
Laborne,
Lamberhurſt,
Lygh,
Weſt Malling,
Mereworth,
Nettleſted,
Offham,
Paddleſworth, near Snodland,
Weſt Peckham,
Pembury,
Ryarſh,
Seale,
Shipborne,
Speldhurſt,
Teſton,
Trottiſcliffe,
Tudeley,
Tunbridge,
Watringbury,
Weſterham, and
Yalding.

## *ROCHESTER DEANRY.*

Allhallows,
Aſh, near Wrotham,
Aylesford,
Burham,
Chalk,
Chatham,
Cobham,
Cookſtone,
Cowling,
Denton, near Graveſend,
Fawkham,
Frindſbury,
Graveſend,
Halling,
High Halſtow,
Hartley,
Higham,
Hoo,
Kinſdown, near Wrotham,
Longfield,
Luddeſdon.
St. Margaret's, near Rocheſter,
St. Mary's Hoo,
Milton, near Graveſend,
Merſton,
Nutſted,
St. Nicholas, Rocheſter,
Ridley,
Shorne,
Snodland,
Southfleet,
Stoke,
Stone, near Dartford,
Stroud,
Swanſcombe, and
Woldham.

*SHOREHAM*

## *SHOREHAM DEANRY,*

WHICH IS A PECULIAR OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, HAS IN IT THE FOLLOWING PARISHES:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bexley, | Halſted, | Northfleet, |
| Braſted, | Hayes, | Orpington, |
| Chevening | Hever, | Otford, |
| Chidingſtone, | Hunton, | Eaſt Peckham, |
| Cliff at Hoo, | St. James, in | Penſhurſt, |
| Crayford, | Graine, | Sevenoke, |
| Darent, | Ifield, | Shoreham, |
| Downe, | Ightham, | Stanſted, |
| Eynsford, | Keſton, | Sundridge, and |
| Eaſt Farleigh, | Eaſt Malling, | Wrotham |
| Farningham, | Meopham, | with |
| Gillingham, | Nockholt, | Plaxtool. |

In all one hundred and thirty-two pariſhes.

HAVING thus deſcribed the ſeveral diviſions of this county, I ſhall now take ſome notice of the *Air*, *Soil*, *natural and artificial Products*, and other particulars relating to the preſent ſtate of it.

The *air* in this county is various, according to the different parts of it: in many it is as healthy and pure as any can be in this iſland; but on the north ſide of the great road, leading from London to Dover, almoſt as far as Canterbury, and from thence again on the ſame ſide of *that* into the iſle of Thanet, there is a long ſpace of country, lying near the banks of the Thames and the Medway, along the Swale, and adjoining to the river Stour below Canterbury, in which the air is groſs, foggy, and much ſubject to intermittents, owing to the large tracts of low, ſwampy, marſh grounds, among which there are ſuch quantities of ſtagnating waters, as render the country near them exceedingly unwholſome, eſpecially in the autumnal quarter. Romney-marſh labours under the ſame inconvenience, and for the ſame reaſons.

The

The *general face* of this county is very beautiful, not only from the wealth and abundance with which it is conſtantly covered, but from the great variety and inequality of the ground, the former of which is ſo great, that it may almoſt be called from thence an epitome of the whole kingdom. Indeed, it has moſt advantages that the reſt of the kingdom enjoys, and many that are not to be found elſewhere.

The *ſoil* is ſo different in almoſt every pariſh, that it is not poſſible to give any regular deſcription of it; I ſhall only obſerve, therefore, that the whole county, excepting the marſhes and the weald, is a general cluſter of ſmall hills; two chains of which, higher than the reſt, run through the middle of it, from weſt to eaſt, moſtly at about eight miles diſtance (though at ſome places much leſs) from each other, beginning at the county of Surry, and ending at the ſea. Theſe are called the *upper* and *lower* hills, and are, along the tops of them, covered with large tracts of woods and coppice. The ſoil of them is but poor and barren, that of the upper being moſtly chalk and flint, and of the lower various, as ſand and gravel, and more eaſterly full of the rock ſtone, the richneſs of the ſoil increaſing as you deſcend to a greater diſtance from them.

The *incloſures* in Kent are in general ſmall, and conſiſt promiſcuouſly of arable, meadow, paſture, orchards, and hop-ground, and much woodland interſperſed among them, except in the north-eaſt part of the county, beyond Canterbury, which is a much more open and campaign country than the reſt of it.

It has *corn and grain* of the like ſorts with the reſt of the kingdom, as wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, peas, beans, and tares, much more than can be conſumed in it, great quantities of which are weekly ſent by water to London and elſewhere. In the eaſtern parts there are many fields and plats ſown with canary and hemp, and about Faverſham are ſe-

veral

veral fields planted with madder, which is there of late manufactured for the uſe of the dyers, and woad is likewiſe frequently ſowed in Weſt Kent for the like uſe.

The *paſture*, *meadow*, and *marſh ground* is much of it exceedingly rich and fertile, eſpecially below the hill, and in Romney-marſh, from which London is weekly ſupplied with great quantities of the fineſt and fatteſt ſheep and oxen that are at any time brought to market. Beſides which, great numbers of ſheep are kept and fatted on the turnips, clovers, ſanfoins, and other ſuch graſſes, which are continually ſown on the uplands, by which manure there is afterwards produced a much greater quantity of corn than would be by any other method of huſbandry.

As to the *orchards* of apples, pears, plumbs, and cherries, there are great numbers of them everywhere, but not ſo much as formerly, eſpecially of the latter; many of them having been deſtroyed and converted into hop-grounds. The codling-tree is likewiſe more ſcarce than it uſed to be in this county. In the neighbourhood of Maidſtone the plantations of apples are very large, and a great quantity of cyder is made from them; and there are likewiſe in thoſe parts many plantations of filberts, which turn out to good account, the fruit of them being ſent to the London markets.

The *hop-grounds* have increaſed greatly of late years, and about Maidſtone, Faverſham, and Canterbury eſpecially, hops are the principal commodity of the country, though they were petitioned againſt by the parliament ſo late as the reign of king Henry VI. about 1428, as a *wicked weed*. They were introduced by king Henry VIII. but were not much cultivated in England for ſome time; and ſo late as queen Elizabeth[a] they were fetched from the Low

[a] Brit. Top. p. 61. Spelm. part ii. p. 147.

Countries;

Countries; ſince which they have ſo greatly increaſed, that the duty on hops throughout England, in the year 1778, amounted to 160358l. 13s. 11¼d. of which the county of Kent produced nearly one half, viz. Canterbury diſtrict, 36862l. 3s. 6d. and Rocheſter diſtrict, 42046l. 0s. 11d. together 78908l. 4s. 5d. Theſe plantations, amounting to many thouſand acres, being of the greateſt advantage to this county, they employ great numbers of the neighbouring poor, not only in their cultivation, but in the making of the bagging for them; they greatly increaſe the value of the woodlands, and are the cauſe of much money being circulated within the county every year.

There are many *nurſeries* for trees, plants, &c. and acres of *rich garden ground*, in the weſtern part of this county, and in the environs of London, moſtly uſed for the ſupply of the metropolis, and there are others of the like ſort in the neighbourhood of the ſeveral capital towns in it; about Sandwich the ſoil is ſo adapted to the growth of carrots, that it produces larger ones, and of a more excellent flavour and colour than thoſe that grow any where elſe.

The *coppice wood* in general is either oak, hazel, birch, or beech, intermixed with aſh, willow, cheſnut, &c. of which laſt there are large tracts in the neighbouring parts of Milton, near Sittingborne, and Newington, and ſo on for ſome miles towards the ſouth.

The *timber* in the woods is moſtly oak and beech, and round the fields and hedge rows on the north ſide the hill, and weſtward of Barham-downs, moſtly elm, with ſome very few oak and aſh, but in other parts of the county, eſpecially about Maidſtone, below the hill, it is in general oak, and that not only in the hedge rows, but in the woods, in great plenty, and of a very large ſize, fit for the ſupply of his majeſty's navy, inſomuch that the timber growing on many eſtates, if cut down and ſold, would purchaſe the freehold on which they ſtand. Aſh, alders, and willows,

willows, likewiſe grow in great plenty near the freſh ſtreams every where.

The only remains of a *foreſt* in this county is what is called the *ſouth* and *north frith*, near Tunbridge, moſt part of which is now woodland. There were, in queen Elizabeth time, fifty-three ancient parks, which are now all diſparked, except thoſe of Knoll, Cobham, Mereworth, Greenwich, Eltham, Lullingſtone, Leeds, and Chilham; but there are others incloſed ſince, as Langley in Beckenham, Lamienby and Blendon in Bexley, Chilſton in Boughton Malherbe, Charlton by Greenwich two parks, Foot's Cray, Godmerſham, St. Stephen's, alias Hackington, Knowlton, Lee, Linſted, the Moat in Maidſtone, Bradborne in Eaſt Malling, Merſham, Penſhurſt, Surrenden in Pluckley, Kippington in Sevenoke, Fairlawn in Shipborne, Eaſt Sutton, Teſton, Walderſhare, and Eaſtwell. Beſides the above, there are many plantations and lawns near gentlemen's ſeats, which though they have no deer in them, are kept up and incloſed as parks, and more profitably fed with ſheep and oxen.

There are very few *heaths* of any ſize in this county; the principal being Black-heath, Bexley-heath, Cox-heath, Charing, Dartford, and Malling heaths; thoſe beſides are hardly worth the name of ſuch, being moſtly of the ſmaller ſort, ſuch as commons, lees, forſtals, minniſes, and the like; land being too valuable in it, and the ſpirit of induſtry too prevalent, to ſuffer much land to lie waſte and uncultivated. In the eaſternmoſt parts of Kent, and on the high chalk cliffs and hills on the coaſt, there are, however, ſeveral tracts of downs, viz. from Barham-down to Deal, and from thence to Dover, and ſo on to Folkeſtone and Hith, and in ſome other places on the ſummit of theſe hills; but they are in general well covered with graſs, and afford good paſture for ſheep, &c.

In the *Weald*, about Betherſden, there is a broad ſtone dug up, called, from the excellent poliſh it bears,

bears, *Betherſden-marble*, which was formerly ſo highly eſteemed, that tombs and ornamental pillars in moſt of the churches were made of it, and in moſt of the antient ſeats the chimney pieces, in the grandeſt apartments, were made of it; and in the *weald* adjoining to Suſſex are iron mines and furnaces, the manufacture of which is, by the navigation on the Medway, carried to market. Near Maidſtone are large quarries of ſtone, called the *Kentiſh rag-ſtone*, which, when worked up and ſquared, is conveyed away by the ſame means. And at Greenhith, Northfleet, and near Rocheſter, *chalk* is dug, and the *lime* from it is carried, by means of the Thames and Medway, not only to diſtant parts of this county, but into Eſſex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, in great quantities.

There are but few *manufactures* in this county, as well owing to the great attention paid to agriculture and grazing, as to the great number of eaſy and lucrative employments in the diſpoſal of government; yet there are ſome. For inſtance, at Canterbury is a manufactory of muſlins, called Canterbury muſlins, brocaded ſilks, and of ſtockings; at Whiſtaple and Deptford there are large copperas works; at Stonar, in the iſle of Thanet, and likewiſe in the iſle of Graine, there are works for the making of ſalt; at Oſpringe are large works erected by government for the manufacture of gunpowder, beſides ſmaller ones in other places; in the Weald, adjoining to Suſſex, are large furnaces for the caſting of iron; at Boxley, near Maidſtone, is the moſt extenſive and curious manufacture of paper perhaps in Europe; at Dartford and Crayford there are mills for the manufacturing of iron; at the latter there are large works for the printing of calicoes, and the whitening of linens; near Sevenoke are extenſive mills for the manufacturing of ſilk. As to the cloathing manufactory, which uſed to be carried on ſo largely in the Weald, it is now, I believe, entirely laid aſide.

This

This county produces, in great plenty, every kind of *proviſion* for the ſupport of its inhabitants, beſides large quantities, which are weekly ſent from it to London and its environs, and which are continually expended for the ſhipping, at the ſeveral ports round the confines of it. The beef, veal, mutton, lamb, and pork, are well fatted and excellent. The poultry of every ſort is large and fine, and the fiſh, caught on its own ſhores, and in the rivers and ponds within it, not only ſupply the tables of the rich in great plenty, but afford a cheap and conſtant ſupport to the poor. The native Milton oyſters are ſuperior to all others, and the lobſters caught off the iſle of Thanet, exceed in goodneſs all others taken in any other part of England. From the ſeveral warrens in it the markets are well ſupplied with rabbits. From the number of parks in it there is great plenty of veniſon; which, in thoſe of Eaſtwell, Knoll, and Cobham, is eſteemed ſuperior in flavour and goodneſs to all others.

The *game* likewiſe is in great plenty throughout the whole of it; viz. hares, pheaſants and patridges; the pheaſants being eſteemed larger, and finer flavoured, than in any other part of the kingdom.

In ſhort, I know not what this county has not, that a country ſhould have, for the eaſe, pleaſure, profit, and health of its inhabitants, nor can I conclude better than with the verſes of our old Engliſh poet, Michael Drayton, who in his Poly-Olbion, thus celebrates the praiſes of it:

..... Oh! famous Kent, *quoth he*,
What county has this iſle that can compare with thee!
Which haſt within thyſelf as much as thou canſt wiſh,
Thy conies, veni'ſon, fruit, thy ſorts of fowl and fiſh;
And what comports with ſtrength, thy hay, and corn, and wood,
Not any thing thou wants, that any where is good.

AMONG the different advantages which the county of Kent enjoys from its ſituation, thoſe two noble rivers, the Thames and the Medway, muſt not be forgotten, the former of theſe flowing by the northern boundary of it for upwards of forty miles, and the latter taking a navigable courſe for a much greater length through the midſt of it.

The Thames, the moſt famous river of this iſland, has been already ſo fully treated of by our hiſtorians in their accounts of London, and the ſhires through which it paſſes before it comes to this county, that it is needleſs to repeat again here what they have ſaid on this ſubject. Indeed, the various matters relating to it would fill a volume of themſelves, I ſhall, therefore, content myſelf with obſerving ſome few particulars relating to it, ſo far as it has connexion with this county.

Camden has obſerved, that there is no river in Europe, in which the tide flows with ſo long a courſe as in the Thames. It flows in it as high as Richmond, in Surry, which is upwards of ſixty miles from the mouth of it, a circumſtance of the greateſt benefit to its navigation, the preſerving of its waters ſweet and wholeſome, and the increaſe of the numerous ſhoals of fiſh with which it is filled.

The glorious view of trade, plenty and riches always to be ſeen on this river, exhibits a conſtant aſtoniſhment to the beholder, and the numerous fleets of ſhips ſo continually crowding their ſails on its ſurface from every part of the globe, afford a ſight greatly beyond what any other river in Europe can ſhew.

The Thames, having paſſed London-bridge, flows on to Deptford, the firſt boundary of Kent, where it receives the ſtream called the Ravenſborne. Here the river is ſo covered with ſhipping lying at their anchors

anchors for various purpoſes of trade, that there remains a ſpace between them barely ſufficient for the paſſage of others. Beſides ſeveral private ones, here is a royal dock, for the building and refitting of the navy of Great Britain, and the ſhore, from hence to Greenwich, is covered with all the opulence and hurry of trade, carried on by thoſe who are employed either unloading the various merchandiſes from the ſhipping, or ſupplying them with freſh ſtores, and victualling for their intended voyages.

From Deptford the Thames paſſes by the royal hoſpital and town of Greenwich, and from thence flows on by Woolwich, where there is a royal dock, and other buildings and accommodations for the uſe of the navy, and an eſtabliſhment of the office of ordnance for the royal artillery. Having paſſed this town it goes on by Erith, where the Eaſt-India ſhips frequently ſtop in their paſſage homewards, to unload part of their ſtores; and having received the rivers Cray and Darent into its boſom near Dartford, it flows on by Greenhith, where there are large wharfs, and a ferry for horſes and cattle over the river into Eſſex. Thence it goes on to Northfleet, and by the large chalk-wharfs there, having firſt received into it a ſmall ſtream which flows under Northfleet bridge, to the town of Graveſend, a populous place, entirely ſupported by the navigation of the Thames.

Juſt below Graveſend ends the port of London, from whence the Thames flowing through the road called the Hope, paſſes by the hundred of Hoo and the iſle of Graine, at the eaſtern extremity of which it meets the waters of the Medway, and being thus united at the Nore, they flow together into the German ocean.

*The river* MEDWAY, or *Medwege*, was named by the antient Britons *Vaga*, to which the Saxons added the ſyllable *mad*, ſignifying in their language, *mid*, or *middle*, becauſe it ran through the middle of the

kingdom of Kent, calling it in their language, *Medweg*, which word is now modernized to *Medway*.

This great river has *four principal heads*, one of which riſes in the manor of Gaſſon, in the pariſh of Blechingley, in the county of Surry, and having received into it ſeveral ſmall ſtreams, it runs on to Eatonbridge, in Kent, and paſſing by Hever-caſtle, runs to Chidingſtone, and ſo flows on to Penſhurſt, where it divides into two parts, uniting again at about three quarters of a mile diſtance. The Medway is here increaſed, on the ſouthern ſide, by a ſecond principal head of it, which riſes at Graveley-hill, in Suſſex, and being augmented by other ſtreams in that county, it enters the county of Kent, and goes on by Cowden, and thence runs on by Groombridge to Aſhurſt, ſome diſtance below which it joins the Cowden branch above-mentioned. Thus united, it runs on, and meets the main river near Penſhurſt, having throughout the whole courſe of it been augmented by numbers of ſmall ſtreams.

The river Medway flows from hence to Tunbridge, a little above which it ſeparates into five different channels, the moſt northern of which is the principal and only navigable branch, and in this ſtate it paſſes Tunbridge town. Three of theſe ſtreams again join the main channel a mile and a half below Tunbridge, as does the other and moſt ſouthern in ſomewhat more than half a mile below the others; from hence the Medway flows on to Brand-bridge, and thence to Twyford-bridge, and ſo on to Yalding, where it is joined by a very conſiderable ſtream, flowing from two of its principal heads; one of theſe, being the third principal head of this great river, riſes at a place called Hockenbury Panne, in Waterdown-foreſt, in the county of Suſſex, about a mile from Eredge-houſe, near Fant, and runs from thence to Begham-abbey, which having ſupplied, it flows from thence to Lamberhurſt, and ſo on to Fincheocks, in Goudhurſt,

hurſt, where it is met by a rivulet compoſed of two ſtreams, one called the Bewle, which comes by Scotney, and gives name to a bridge juſt above it, called Bewles-bridge; and the other the Theyſe, from its riſing at Teyſhurſt, in Suſſex; after this rivulet has paſſed by Finchcocks, it goes on to Broadford, and ſo runs on to Marden, and about a mile from Twyford it ſeparates into two branches, called the Twiſt, both of which run into another main branch of the Medway, near Hunton, at about three quarters of a mile diſtance from each other. The ſpring from whence this laſt-mentioned branch flows is the fourth principal head of the Medway, and riſes near Goldwell, in Great Chart, from whence it paſſes on to Romeden, and flowing on by Smarden, it continues its courſe towards Hedcorne, and being much increaſed by ſeveral leſſer waters, it flows on to Style-bridge, ſoon after which, receiving into it the two ſtreams of the Twiſt above-mentioned juſt beyond Hunton, it goes to Yalding-bridge, at a ſmall diſtance below which it joins the main river as above-mentioned.

From Yalding the river Medway flows on by Nettleſted and Watringbury, and paſſing through Teſton-bridge runs on by Weſt Farleigh and Barming, and through thoſe bridges, and ſo on through Eaſt Farleigh-bridge to Tovill, after having been joined by ſeveral ſmall rivulets during its courſe, one of which, at about a mile from thence, hides itſelf under ground, being covered near half a mile, and then at the Quarries it riſes again, and runs above ground to Looſe,—thence the Medway runs on to Maidſtone, and above the bridge there, on the north ſide, it receives a rivulet, which riſes at Bigon-heath, near Lenham, at a ſmall diſtance from which this little ſtream, having been joined by ſeveral brooks on each ſide, runs on to Fairborne, and ſo by Bromfield to Leeds-caſtle, and through the park there, and being in its way augmented by ſeveral brooks, eſpecially from

the north, it paſſes by the Mote, a ſmall diſtance below which it ſupplies the curious manufacture for paper at the old Turkey-mill, ſoon after which it joins the main river juſt above Maidſtone-bridge as abovementioned.

Having paſſed by Maidſtone town, the river Medway flows on by Allington caſtle, and ſo on through Aylesford-bridge, whence it runs on by Boreham, and ſo flows on to Woldham and Whornes-place, and being now become a large and ſpacious river, of great width and force of water, it paſſes through Rocheſter-bridge, and by the towns of Strood, Rocheſter, and Chatham, and ſo on to the royal ſtorehouſes and docks there, and then by Upnor-caſtle and Gillingham-fort, after which it increaſes to a great width, and its waters become very rapid, and ſo plentiful, that they form many iſlands and ſmaller channels on each ſide of it, the river all the while twiſting and winding itſelf about in continued meanders, and at the ſouth-weſt corner of the iſle of Graine it paſſes the ſmall ſtream which ſeparates that iſle from the main land, which is called at this end the Dray, and at the end next the Thames the North Yenket; oppoſite to this iſland the Medway receives into it Stangate-creek, and a little lower the waters of the Swale, which flow between the iſland of Shepey and the main land, and thence it goes on by Blackſtakes to Sheerneſs, where are the royal docks and ſtorehouſes for the uſe of the navy, a garriſon, and ſtrong fortifications for the defence of this river; after which the Medway meeting the waters of the Thames at the Nore, they flow together into the German ocean. The principal channel of the Medway, from Tunbridge to Sheerneſs, runs north-north-eaſt, and the length of country, from its entrance at Cowden and Eaton-bridge to its mouth, is forty-four miles, though by the circles and meanders this river makes it is many more. The rivers and brooks that ſupply it over-

ſpread

ſpread a ſurface of near thirty miles in width, in the midſt of this country and in the Weald, bringing with their ſtreams fertility, pleaſure, and convenience.

The Medway is now made navigable as high as Tunbridge, which is of great utility to this county and Suſſex, and to the public in general. This navigation was firſt begun in purſuance of an act of parliament, paſſed in the 16th and 17th years of king Charles II. but the undertakers, not finding the powers of that act ſufficient to complete ſo great a work, procured another in the 13th of king George II. anno 1740, by which they are incorporated by the name of *The Proprietors of the Navigation of the River Medway*, and enabled to raiſe thirty thouſand pounds among themſelves to carry on their work, which ſum was to be divided into three hundred ſhares, of which no one perſon was to have more than ten. They were empowered likewiſe to employ boats, &c. to carry goods on the river, and to take toll of others; and the navigation was exempted from the commiſſion of ſewers; in conſequence of which the proprietors have laid out great ſums of money in deepening and widening it, and erecting locks and bridges, and other improvements; inſomuch that a ſafe and conſtant navigation upon it is now completed from Rocheſter up to Tunbridge, by which the great quantities of fine timber, which grow in the wealds of Kent and Suſſex, and the iron ordnance, balls, and other materials of war forged in thoſe parts, which could not otherwiſe, by reaſon of the badneſs of the roads, be conveyed to market without an enormous expence, find an eaſy carriage in lighters thither; and wood, corn, grain, hay, hops, wool, leather, and all manner of proviſions, coals, lime, quarry ſtone, and all other neceſſaries and commodities are conveyed on it at an eaſy expence, to the great benefit of this county, and the improvement of trade and commerce in general; and in 1792, another act paſſed for im-

proving this river ſtill farther below the town of Maidſtone, through the pariſhes of Boxley, Allington and Aylesford.

The *traffic* on the Medway ſtill increaſes from the neighbouring country on each ſide of it, till it comes to Maidſtone, where it becomes ſtill more conſiderable by the hoys, which continually ſail from thence, freighted for the ſupply of the London markets, to which the ſeveral mills for corn, paper, &c. there, and the great quantity of hop-grounds in thoſe parts, do not a little contribute. The tide flows up as high as the lock juſt above Maidſtone-bridge, and is there ſtopped by it, before the erecting of which it uſed to flow up as high as Farleigh-bridge, and ſometimes, though but very ſeldom, as far as St. Helen's, in Barming.

At Rocheſter-bridge, where the tide of this river becomes exceeding rapid, foaming with great noiſe as it paſſes through, all the ſhipping are obliged to ſtop, neither the bridge nor the river itſelf permitting them to ſail higher; and at thoſe towns of Strood, Rocheſter, and Chatham, they unload their cargoes, either for ſale there, or to be put into lighters to be conveyed upwards, towards Maidſtone or Tunbridge. Beſides the trade neceſſarily ariſing from the country, and the number of inhabitants with which theſe towns are filled, there are at Chatham large and extenſive docks, buildings, and other accommodations for the uſe of the royal navy, and departments of the ordnance and victualling offices, ſeveral private docks, and other branches of trade in conſequence of them; all which promote a conſtant ſucceſſion of trade, hurry, and buſineſs, upon this river.

From Rocheſter-bridge to Sheerneſs, which is about twenty miles, the channel of the river is ſo deep, the bed ſo ſoft, and the reaches ſo ſhort, that it is the beſt, and indeed the only ſafe harbour in the kingdom for the larger ſhips of the royal navy, which ride here,

here, when they are put out of commiſſion, in great numbers, as in a wet dock, and being moored at the chains, which are fixed for that purpoſe at the bottom of the river, ſwing up and down with the tide. Below Chatham there have been ſeveral forts erected for the defence of the royal navy, &c. of which a further mention will be made hereafter; from whence to the mouth of it there is little elſe worth notice, excepting that at the entrance of Stangate-creek, about three miles above Sheerneſs, on the ſouth ſide of this river, there is a *regular quarantine* eſtabliſhed for all veſſels coming from the Levant and other ſuſpected places, to prevent their bringing any infection of the plague into this kingdom; and that at the Swale, about two miles below this creek, the veſſels from Queenborough, and very frequently from Milton, Faverſham, and thoſe parts of Kent, take their courſe into the Medway towards the Thames.

At Sheerneſs, which is a *royal dock* likewiſe, for the buildings ſhips of a leſſer ſize, and refitting others upon a ſudden emergency, there is a garriſon, and ſtrong fortifications, to guard the entrance into this river, mounted with ſuch heavy cannon commanding the mouth of it, that no fleet of ſhips whatſoever can attempt to paſs by them without being torn to pieces. This fort was built by king Charles II. and improved from time to time to its preſent ſtate, eſpecially on the memorable attempt which the Dutch made on the 10th of June 1667, upon the royal navy in this river, at which time it was left almoſt defenceleſs; for there were then but four guns that could be uſed at Upnor, and ſcarce ſo many at Gillingham, and about twelve guns in the iſle of Shepey, where the fort of Sheerneſs is now built.

It was during a treaty of peace between the Dutch and the Engliſh, that the former took advantage of our too great ſecurity, and appearing with a great fleet on our coaſts, rode in triumph along them, and ad-

vanced near the mouth of the Thames, and finding no oppoſition there, they made a bold attempt, and ſailed up the Medway, and ſoon made themſelves maſters of the little fort of Sheerneſs, though valiantly defended by Sir Edward Spragg. To put a ſtop to their farther progreſs, ſeveral veſſels were ſunk about the Muſcle-bank, the narroweſt part of the river, and a ſtrong chain was put acroſs the channel, and the lord-general, the duke of Albermarle, came down thither with a land force to oppoſe them, but having the advantage of an eaſterly wind, and a ſtrong tide, the Dutch furiouſly preſſed on and broke through the chain, and fought and burnt the three ſhips that lay to guard it, the Matthias, the Unity, and the Charles V. all three Dutch ſhips taken in that war, damaging many other veſſels, and taking along with them the hull of the Royal Charles, which was twice fired by the Engliſh, and as often extinguiſhed by the enemy. After which they advanced, with ſix men of war and five fire-ſhips as far as Upnor-caſtle, and burnt the Royal Oak, and in effect deſtroyed the Loyal London and the Great James, which they left a great part under water, and after all this inſult and ravage they fell down the river again, with no great damage to themſelves, excepting the loſs of their fire-ſhips, and the running aground two of their men of war, which they were forced to ſet on fire.

This bold attempt of the Dutch gave ſuch an alarm to the nation of the danger the royal docks and magazines at Chatham, and the Britiſh navy itſelf lay expoſed to, from the defenceleſs ſtate of the river Medway, and of the eaſy acceſs of the enemy to it, that the little fort at Sheerneſs was ſoon afterwards increaſed to a regular fortification, with a line of large and heavy cannon to command the mouth of it. A fort or platform of guns was likewiſe raiſed higher up in the river, called Cockham-wood; the Swamp and Gillingham-caſtle were likewiſe formed and furniſhed with

with guns, and on the oppoſite ſhore, Upnor-caſtle was ſtrengthened with a good platform of guns, which commanded two reaches of the river, above and below it. Beſides which, there has always been ſince, in time of peace, a man of war, and in other times ſeveral more, ready for ſervice, lying at the entrance of this river, and the Thames at the Nore, to protect the nation from any ſudden inſult of the like ſort for the future.

The river Medway is plentifully ſtored with fiſh; above Maidſtone there is, in particular, plenty of carp, perch, tench, pike, dace, chub, roach, and gudgeons, and about once a year there is a ſalmon caught, commonly of about twelve or fourteen pounds weight; there were formerly great numbers of this fiſh in the Medway, ſeveral of the manors belonging to the priory of Rocheſter being bound to furniſh one or more of them yearly to the monks there, for the uſe of their refectory;[a] and below Rocheſter there are taken the fineſt and largeſt ſmelts that can be, ſoals, flounders, dabs, thornbacks, maids, &c.

Sturgeon, in former times, uſed to be ſo exceedingly plenty in this river, that a duty was paid from it to the biſhop of Rocheſter, and formed a conſiderable part of his revenue, as ſecond to the archbiſhop, and another to the king; but there has been hardly any fiſh of this kind in the river for many years, which is imputed to the largeneſs and frequency of the men of war in it, which, diſturbing the fiſh, have driven them from it. Indeed once in ſix or ſeven years a fiſh of this kind is ſeen up the river, one of which, in particular, was taken in the Medway, near Maidſtone, in July 1774, which weighed one hundred and ſixty pounds, and was ſeven feet four inches long.

On the Medway, and in the ſeveral creeks and waters belonging to it, within the juriſdiction of the cor-

[a] Text. Roff. p. 193.

poration

poration of Rocheſter there is an oyſter fiſhery, and the mayor and citizens hold a court once a year, or oftener, if neceſſary, called the *admiralty-court*, for regulating this fiſhery, and to prevent abuſes in it, the juriſdiction and authority of it have been further eſtabliſhed and enforced by two acts of parliament, paſſed for that purpoſe, and this fiſhery is now in a flouriſhing condition.

There are *ſix ſmaller rivers* in this county; the Ravenſborne, the Cray, the Darent, the Greater and Leſſer Stour, and the Rother. The moſt weſtern of theſe is

*The river, called* RAVENSBORNE, which riſes on Keſton-common, at a litle diſtance weſtward from the antient camp at Halwood-hill in the pariſh of Keſton, directing its courſe north-north-weſt between the pariſhes of Hayes and Bromley, and, being augmented by ſeveral ſmall brooks on the eaſtern ſide of it, this ſtream runs northward, through the eaſtern bounds of Beckenham, towards Lewiſham, where, at the hamlet of Southend, it ſupplies the ſteel manufactory, and flowing from thence, at about a quarter of a mile below Kengeley-bridge, it receives a conſiderable increaſe from the weſtern ſide, from a ſtream which riſes from ſeveral ſprings in the pariſh of Beckenham. Hence it directs its courſe northward, and at a little diſtance from Lewiſham-ſtreet, having turned a mill, it croſſes the highway leading from Lee to Deptford, where, having paſſed the bridge, it receives the Lee Bourne from the weſtward, and flows on to Deptford, where it croſſes the London-road, having a handſome ſtone bridge over it, and then paſſing due north empties itſelf into the Thames, at about a mile's diſtance, during which length it is navigable for lighters, and ſuch other like craft, up as high as Deptford-bridge.

*The next river is the* CRAY, antiently called, by the Saxons, *Crecca*, which word ſignifies a ſmall brook, or

or rivulet. This riſes at Newell, in the pariſh of Orpington, and runs from thence almoſt due north by St. Mary Cray, Paul's Cray, and Foot's Cray, where it croſſes the high road from Farningham to London, and having ſupplied the waters in Foot's Cray-park, through which its runs, as it does through thoſe of North Cray-place adjoining, and thence by ſeveral other ſeats in its way to Bexley, it croſſes the road, and paſſing under a newly-erected brick bridge, it runs by the late Mr. Thorpe's gardens to thoſe of Hall-place, and thence paſſes on to Crayford, and then branches into two ſtreams, both of which croſs the great London road, having bridges over them.

Theſe two ſtreams having ſupplied two large manufactories for the printing of calicoes, as they croſs the high-road, re-unite, and turn an iron-mill; and having ſupplied ſome whitening grounds, this river makes ſeveral ſmall windings through Crayford-marſhes, and joining the river Darent in Dartford-creek, on the weſt ſide of it, about a mile below Dartford town, and as much from the Thames, flows in one united ſtream into that river, This river is well ſtored with trout of the fineſt flavour, colour, and ſize, much beyond what any other water produces in theſe parts.

*The river* DARENT, called alſo, in the Saxon charters, *Tærent*, takes its riſe above the grounds belonging to Squirries, in the pariſh of Weſterham, and having croſſed the high road at the end of Weſterham-ſtreet, it runs north-eaſt and by eaſt, by Valence to Braſted, ſoon after which it ſeparates into two ſtreams, which paſs by Sundridge, where there is a bridge over them, leading towards Combank, hence they run on to Chipſted, where the road croſſes them on two bridges; ſoon after they again unite in one ſtream, which then paſſes on to Riverhead, where the Tunbridge road croſſes it over a bridge, and ſoon afterwards directs its courſe nearly north, and paſſing by Otford, it runs

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by Newhouſe to Shoreham, and having paſſed the bridge there, it runs on to Lullingſtone-park, where it ſeparates into two ſtreams, forming an iſland, and rejoins again at Lullingſtone-place, at the back, or eaſt part of which it continues its courſe, and ſo goes on to Eynsford, where it runs by the old caſtle there on to Farningham, and having paſſed the bridge lately built there, and croſſed the high road, it flows on by Franks and Horton to South Darent, ſoon after which it ſeparates into two ſtreams, the northernmoſt of which, being the old river, flows through the village of Darent, the ſouthernmoſt having paſſed by St. John's and Sutton-place, reunites with the other branch, about a mile or leſs from their ſeparation. Hence this river flows by Hawley, and about a mile farther on, it ſupplies a gunpowder manufactory, ſoon after which it ſeparates into two ſtreams again, which unite juſt above the county bridge there, under which the Darent flows, and ſoon after ſupplies the iron-mill, a little below which it forms an iſland, and now, acquiring the name of Dartford-creek, it receives, on the weſt ſide, the little brook called the Cranford, which riſes at Hawley, ſomewhat more than a mile ſouth of Dartford, and hence it flows, with ſeveral turns and windings, for about a mile and a half, when it receives, on the weſt ſide, the Cray, and in about the ſame diſtance more empties itſelf into the Thames.

*The Darent, or Dartford-creek*, as it is called, below Dartford town, is navigable for ſmall boats, as high as the iron-mills above-mentioned, though not at all tides, the channel of it being of late years much choaked up with the ſulliage, &c. which drives into it, as it is ſaid, from the above manufactory, inſomuch, that it is feared this navigation, ſo uſeful to this town and neighbourhood, will be by this means, before many years are elapſed, entirely deſtroyed.

*The next river is the* STOURE, of which name there are two, at no great diſtance from each other, diſtinguiſhed

tinguiſhed by the names of the Greater and the Leſſer Stoure.

There are ſeveral rivers ſo called in different parts of England, the name is ſuppoſed to be derived from the Britiſh words, *Es Dür*, (or Το ὕδωρ) ſignifying the water; hence the city of Canterbury was called *Durwhern*, and afterwards, in Latin, *Durovernum*. The above Britiſh name, *Es Dür*, was afterwards latinized into *Eſtura*, or *Sturè*, and now, by change of language and long cuſtom, it is called and ſpelt *Stoure*.

*The Greater Stoure* has two principal heads, from which it riſes; the firſt of which is at Well-ſtreet, in Lenham, and at about a mile's diſtance runs ſo ſtrong, as to turn a mill, keeping on its courſe ſouth-eaſt, thence it runs on through the grounds belonging to Calehill to Ford-mill, near Surrenden; after which it takes a circle to the eaſt, round Rutting-ſtreet, and turning Hurſt-mill, it runs ſouth-weſt, and forms an iſland; and having united it changes its courſe again to ſouth-eaſt; after which it runs on by Goddington to Bucksford-mill, where it makes again another ſmall iſland, and thence to Stone-bridge, having in its way formed ſeveral ſmall iſlands, ſoon after which this river is greatly augmented by the ſtream which takes its riſe above Poſtling church.

This is the ſecond principal head of the Stoure, which runs from Poſtling to Stamford, and from thence by Weſtenhanger, after which croſſing the road from Hith to Aſhford, a little below Summerfield, it runs on, and having turned Evegate-mill, it paſſes on to Merſham-bridge, beyond which it forms an iſland near Sevington-court, having in its courſe been increaſed by many ſmaller waters, it joins the main ſtream as above-mentioned.

The Stoure having been thus increaſed, directs its courſe north-eaſt, and paſſes Aſhford-bridge at the eaſt end of that town, croſſing the high road from Hythe thither, and thence, after receiving ſeveral ſmall brooks

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into it on each ſide, it goes on by Spring-grove to Wye, and having paſſed the bridge there, and ſupplied the gardens and grounds at Ollantigh, for which purpoſe it is there ſeparated into two channels; this river flows on in one ſtream to Godmerſham, and having paſſed the bridge there, it continues its courſe by Chilham, which it leaves not quite half a mile to the noth-weſt, and then goes on to Shalmsford-bridge, where it croſſes the high road from Aſhford to Canterbury, and thence runs on to Chartham, bending its courſe eaſtward, by Horton and Thanington, after which it ſeparates into two ſtreams, which form three iſlands, one above the other, in the ſecond of which is contained part of the city of Canterbury; theſe two ſtreams, in their paſſage through Canterbury, turn five mills, and again unite a little below the town. Thence the Stoure, having ſupplied Barton-mill, paſſes by Vauxhall, and having croſſed the high road from Canterbury to the iſle of Thanet, under a new built bridge of three arches, it runs on, in its way to Fordwich-bridge, which having paſſed, as well as the town of Fordwich, after having taken ſeveral circles and meanders, it paſſes Grove-ferry, where there is a paſſage over it for carriages, as well as cattle; and thence it flows on till it arrives at the iſle of Thanet, a mile ſouthward from Sarre.

Near this place, ſomewhat northward of Stourmouth, the two river Stoures are ſuppoſed to have emptied themſelves formerly into the water antiently called the *Wantſume*, which ſeparated the iſle of Thanet from the main land, now eſteemed as part of the river Stoure. This water was once ſo conſiderable as to afford a good harbour, and a ſafe and eaſy paſſage for the ſhipping in their way from Sandwich towards London, without the danger and inconvenience of going round the North Foreland.

*The Wantſume*, a name now almoſt forgotten, was formerly ſupplied as well by the waters of the two ri-

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vers Stoure, and other ſmaller ſtreams, as by the two diſtinct tides which, entering it at each end, met each other at the low point of high lands under Sarre, from whence they each ebbed back again to their own ſea, at Northmouth and Sandwich-haven.

This water was once, as it is ſaid, in the wideſt part of it, near four miles over, but it had by degrees retired ſo much, that even in the *venerable* Bede's time, as he tells us, it was but three furlongs over, and was uſually paſſable at two places only; theſe were Sarre and Stonar, where two ferry-boats were kept for that purpoſe.[a]

The Wantſume had two mouths; one of which was eaſtward of Sandwich, and the other at Yenlade, or Northmouth, near Reculver. It was navigable throughout, ſo late as the time of king Henry VIII. for Twyne, who lived in the latter part of that reign, tells us, that there were people then living, who had often ſeen veſſels of good burthen paſs to and fro upon it, where the water was then, eſpecially towards the weſt, totally excluded; all which, he adds, happened, becauſe the freſh ſtreams were not ſufficient to check the ſalt water, that choaked up the channel.

At preſent, that part of this water which flowed round the ſouth ſide of the iſle of Thanet (from the place where the river Stoure arrives at it, about a mile ſouthward from Sarre, to the mouth of it at Pepper-neſs,) is called the river Stoure, and is deemed a part of that river; a farther account of which will be given in its proper place below.

That part of this water, which flowed into the ſea northward of Sarre, at Northmouth, having the ſupply of the ſtreams from Chiflet and that part of the county, after the above period, directed its courſe ſtill northward, but in two ſeparate channels, one of which continued, as before, into the ſea at North-

[a] Bede, lib. i. cap. 26. Lamb. Peramb. p. 96.

mouth,

mouth, and the other found a courſe more weſterly, through a new channel, into the ſea at a place, called from thence, Newhaven, about a quarter of a mile eaſtward from Reculver, and one mile diſtant from the other.

The eaſtermoſt of theſe waters laſt-mentioned directs its courſe northward from Sarre-bridge, below which, taking the name of the Nethergong, it flows almoſt due north into the ſea at Coldharbour or Northmouth-ſluice, formerly called the North Yenlade, at about five miles diſtance from Sarre-bridge.

At a ſmall diſtance north-weſt from the place where a ſtream from Chiſlet meets the Nethergong, the weſternmoſt water branched off from it, though they have now no communication, a wall of earth, of about fifteen feet wide, thrown up for the benefit of the marſh lands, ſeparating them entirely from each other. By which means this water becomes a dead head, or pond, at this end; but a little farther, at Marſh-row, it becomes of a much greater width, and ſo flows on northward into the ſea at Newhaven.

Theſe waters, eſpecially the Nethergong, are at moſt times narrow inconſiderable ſtreams, being continually croſſed by wears, gates, &c. ſet up as well by the commiſſioners of ſewers, as private perſons, for the convenience of the levels, though in the time of floods they are both frequently increaſed to a great width, and run with vaſt force and rapidity into the ſea.

After this change in the courſe of the Wantſume, there was a ſpace left between the northern and the ſouthern ſtreams, that is, from Sarre-bridge ſouthward for about a mile, to the place where the river Stoure arrives at the iſle of Thanet, where there was no water remaining, ſo that Thanet might from thence be called rather a peninſula than an iſland, but for the benefit of ſewing the marſhes, an artificial cut, called the Mile-ſtream, has been made from the Nether-

gong

gong to the Stoure, by which means it was again ſurrounded with water, and became an iſland as before.

The Stoure, being come to the iſle of Thanet, as above-mentioned, and having parted with that water, which runs north-weſtward by Sarre, juſt deſcribed, continues its courſe between the iſland and the main land ſouth-eaſtward, ſoon after which it receives into it the ſtream of the Leſſer Stoure.

The river, called the Leſſer Stoure, may properly be ſaid to riſe in the grounds belonging to Bourn-place, for though it is frequently increaſed by a temporary water, called the Nailbourn, which, after great rains or thaws, makes its way from ſeveral ſprings, one of which is at Eching-ſtreet, which ſeldom fails, even in the drieſt ſummer; another a mile lower, at Liminge, which though it is ſeldom dry at the well, yet ſometimes does not afford water enough to flow the ſpace of a mile; the third is at a place called Brompton's-pot, about three miles and and an half lower than Liminge, and this, in the ſpace between Elham and Barham, frequently becomes dry, except when the occaſional water or Nailbourn burſts out, when running over at this ſpring, it makes a river of itſelf, more or leſs permanent, for ſeveral months, as the ſpring affords it a ſupply, and continuing its courſe to Barham, it paſſes near Kingſton and by Charlton-place to Bourn, where falling in with the head of the Little Stoure, it increaſes the waters of it to double their uſual ſize; after which this river having ſupplied the grounds belonging to Bourn-place, it paſſes by Bridge-place, and croſſing the great Dover road, under a bridge of one arch, it directs its courſe north-eaſtward by Bifrons through Patrickſborne, and then running on by the remains of the archbiſhop's palace, at Bekeſborne, it croſſes the road by the village there, and goes on through the grounds of Old Howlets by Garwinton and Well, after which it ſupplies the grounds belonging to Lee-houſe, and

then croſſes the high road from Deal to Canterbury, under a bridge of two arches, and ſoon afterwards turns two corn-mills, whence it runs to Wickham, after which this river continues its courſe till it flows into the Greater Stoure, which it meets in its progreſs round the iſle of Thanet, as above-mentioned.

The river Stoure continues its courſe round the iſle of Thanet ſouth-eaſt and by ſouth, and paſſing by Richborough caſtle, it flows on to Sandwich, where there is a bridge over it into the iſland, and having afforded a harbour for the ſhipping there, it takes a circle and flows almoſt due north, as it were back again, till it comes to the ſalt-works at Stonar, a little diſtance from whence, where the land is not more than forty rods over, a cut has been made for the benefit of ſewing the levels above, for which an act paſſed in 1776, from this part of the river to the former part of it a little above Richborough-caſtle, the river having flowed from thence nearly in the ſhape of an horſe-ſhoe, making a circuit of about four miles; Sandwich being ſituated midway between the two extremes of it. Soon after the Stoure has paſſed by Stonar it directs its courſe north-eaſt and by eaſt, and ſoon afterwards empties itſelf into the Britiſh channel by Pepperneſs.

The *trout* in both theſe rivers are remarkably fine, particularly about Littlebourne in the Leſſer Stoure, and in the Greater Stoure about Chartham. There is another ſort of trout, which frequents the Greater Stoure, and ſeems to be of the ſalmon kind. Theſe fiſh come into it from the ſea at the latter end of the ſummer, and remain in it only three or four months; they are caught as high up this river as Wye, but more often between Barton-mill, below Canterbury, and Fordwich, than in any other part of it. They are in general of the weight of nine pounds and upwards, though they are ſometimes taken of the weight of twenty-one pounds, or more. Both theſe ſorts of trout are of a beautiful red colour when in ſeaſon.

Below

Below Fordwich, and to the mouth of the river at Pegwell-bay, there is ſtill a different ſort, commonly called *Fordwich trout*, though it is ſuppoſed this fiſh never breeds in the river, but comes from the ſea. They have been much more numerous formerly than they are at preſent, owing to the mouth of the river, where it empties itſelf into the ſea, being ſo much narrower and ſhallower than it uſed to be, when the tide ran ſtronger, and flowed farther up.

Theſe trout are ſometimes taken of ten or twelve pounds weight, and generally upwards of four. They are ſharp-ſnouted, and their fleſh of a yellowiſh caſt.

In the ſixth year[a] of the reign of king Henry VIII. an act paſſed for making that part of this river navigable which lies between Canterbury and Fordwich, ſo that both lighters and boats might come to each alike, notwithſtanding which nothing appears to have been done in it. Perhaps this might be owing to the difference which then ſubſiſted between the archbiſhop and the city, which cauſed him to build at Otford, inſtead of Canterbury, as he at firſt deſigned. However, in queen Elizabeth's time, Mr. Roſe, an alderman of Canterbury, made an attempt to put the above act in execution, and render this ſtream navigable, and beſides being a great benefactor and encourager to it in his life-time, he, by his laſt will, left three hundred pounds towards this uſeful undertaking. The conſequence of which was, that for ſome time there were a few lighters, and boats that navigated this ſtream as high as Canterbury, but now, and for many years ſince, there has been no paſſage for them above Fordwich, but between that place and Sandwich there is a conſtant traffic carried on by means of this river, which is of ſome, though of no great benefit to the city of Canterbury and its neighbourhood.

[a] Somn. Rom. Ports. Lamb. Peramb. Dugd. Imb. p. 83, &c. Somner's Rom. Ports, p. 21.

*The river* ROTHER, formerly called Limene, takes its riſe at Gravel-hill, in the pariſh of Rotherfield, in the county of Suſſex, from whence it runs to Mayfield, whence it flows on to Itchingham, and then running near Salehurſt and Bodiam, it enters this county in the pariſh of Sandhurſt; hence the Rother ſtill continues its courſe eaſtward, ſeparating the pariſhes of Sandhurſt and Newenden from Suſſex, after which, at Maytham-ferry, leaving its old channel, which formerly was round the north ſide of the iſle of Oxney, by Apledore, and ſeparating that pariſh, and thoſe of Rolvenden and Tenterden from that iſland, the Rother now takes its courſe round the oppoſite, or ſouthern ſide of the iſland, and at the ſouth-eaſt corner it falls into its old channel again, which comes down from Apledore, with whoſe waters it flows down into Rye-harbour, and thence into the ſea.

The channel of this river, which formerly ran round the north ſide of this iſland from Maytham-ferry, as above-mentioned, by Smallhith, Reading, and Apledore, is now only a ſmall ſtream, which receives into it a few brooks on the north ſide of it, and joins the Rother at the ſouth-eaſt and weſt corners of the iſland. This channel, in 1736, was become ſo choaked up and contracted, that the waters could not find ſufficient paſſage in it, which obliged the proprietors of the adjoining marſh-land to purchaſe and cut a new channel through Witterſham level, from Maytham-ferry to Blackwall, on the ſouthern ſide of the iſland, where this river now runs, as above-mentioned.

Before the time of king Edward I. this river flowed from Apledore ſtraight on to Romney, where forming an harbour it emptied itſelf into the ſea, but in that king's reign, anno 1287, the raging violence of the ſea overflowed this tract, and made great deſtruction of the people, cattle, and houſes in every part within it, and entirely drowned Promhill, then a well frequented town, at the ſame time it ſo greatly agitated the

the channel of the Rother, that the waters of it, forſaking their old courſe, took a new and nearer paſſage from Apledore into the ſea at Rye, as they run at preſent.

It appears, by an inquiſition, taken in the beginning of king Edward III.'s reign, before William Truſſell, the king's eſcheator, on this ſide Trent, that the tide then ebbed and flowed up above Newenden, and ſo ſtrong, that the bridge there was broken and demoliſhed by it, and the lands on each ſide the river were greatly overflowed, and much damaged by the ſalt water. To prevent which there were, from time to time, ſeveral commiſſions of ſewers granted for the new making, viewing, and repairing the banks on each ſide of it, but there were, in conſequence of letters patent granted by king Edward III. ſome new banks raiſed, which thwarted this river, and prevented ſuch ſhips and boats as uſed to paſs on it with victuals, and other things, from divers places in Kent and Suſſex to Itchingham, and were likewiſe of the greateſt prejudice to the market town of Salehurſt, which had been ſupported by the courſe of this water; the king therefore revoked theſe letters patent, and commanded thoſe banks to be demoliſhed.

There are, in different part of this county, beſides the above rivers, ſeveral inconſiderable brooks, and rivulets, which are not worth a particular deſcription in this place, but each will be mentioned under the heads of the ſeveral pariſhes where they take their riſe.

THERE are two diſtricts in this county, which merit a particular deſcription, viz. *Romney-marſh*, and the part of Kent called the *Weald*, the firſt of which I ſhall take notice of when I come to ſpeak of that part of the county, and the latter I ſhall take this opportunity of deſcribing here.

*The Weald of Kent* was in former times nothing more than a waſte deſart and wilderneſs, not furniſhed with habitations, and peopled as the reſt of the county was, but like a foreſt, ſtored with herds of deer and droves of hogs only, in teſtimony of which, in the antient royal donations to the churches of Canterbury and Rocheſter, which relate to the Weald, there is mention made of the pannage for hogs in theſe parts, and of nothing elſe. And in the antient rentals of the former of thoſe churches, when they come to the tenants inhabiting the wealdy country, there *the rent only* is ſet down, without ſhewing for what antient ſervice, what manner of cuſtom, and for what ſpecial cauſe the ſame grew due and payable, as is expreſſed in all elſewhere. From whence it may be preſumed, that even when the Weald was at firſt made to belong to certain known owners, as well as the reſt of the country, it was not then allotted into tenancies, nor manured like the reſt of it, but only as men were contented to inhabit it, and by peace-meal to clear it of the wood, and convert it into tillage.

This diſtrict was named of the Saxon word *Weald*, ſignifying a *woody country*. The Britons called it *Coit Andred*, from its exceeding greatneſs, whence the Saxons called it by a ſecond name, *Andredeſleaz*, in Latin, *Saltus Andred*, i. e. *the great chace* or *foreſt*.[a] There are diverſity of opinions touching the true limits of this Weald, ſome affirming it to begin at one place, and ſome at another, which uncertainty ariſes from its having been from time to time made leſs and leſs by induſtry, and being now in a manner wholly repleniſhed with people, and interſperſed every where with wealthy towns and villages, it may more reaſonably be maintained, that there is no Weald at all, than to aſcertain where it ought to begin or end. Yet

[a] Lamb. Peramb. p. 223. Camb. Brit. p. 195. Somn. Rom. Ports, p. 107 et ſeq. Flor. Worceſt. p. 545. H. Huntingd. p. 312, 351. M. Weſtm. p. 90, calls it *Andredeſwold*.

there

there are certain privileges ſtill annexed to the lands in the Weald, which induce the owners of them to contend for their being within the limits of it, where their lands in general pay no tithe of wood, and it is ſaid, that within the Weald the proof of wood lands having ever paid tithe lies on the parſon, to entitle him to take tithe of it, contrary to the uſual cuſtom in other places, where the proof of the exemption lies on the owner;[b] nor are the lands in it ſubject to the ſtatute of woods; nor has the lord waſte within the Weald, the timber growing thereon belonging to the tenant, which cuſtom of excluding the lord from the waſte is called *landpeerage*.[c]

It is the general opinion, that the Weald antiently extended much farther than it is ſuppoſed to do at preſent, and that the bounds of it formerly began at Winchelſea, in Suſſex, and reached one hundred and twenty miles in length and thirty in breadth, however that might be, it is certainly now contained in much ſtraighter limits, which, according to the reputation of the country, are as follows in this county:

*The Weald* bounds on the weſt to Surry, and on the ſouth to Suſſex; on the north, beginning at Surry, the bounds are by the hill whereon Well-ſtreet ſtands; thence to the top of Ide-hill, River-hill, the hill above Fair-lane, and thence to Herſt-hill; thence to the top of the hill above Watringbury, thence to Teſton, where the river Medway comes in, but on the eaſt ſide of it the hill begins again, and runs above Burſton, and thence to the top of the hills above Linton, Boughton, Chart Sutton, Town Sutton, and Ulcombe, thence to the ſame hill at Boughton Malherbe, where Sir Horace Mann's houſe ſtands, and there the hill breaks, and from thence the bounds towards the eaſt run by certain

[b] Why *ſylva cædua* pays no tithe in the Weald, from an argument of Sir Robert Heath, in Com. Banc. among Harl. MSS. No. 980-304.

[c] Robinſon's Gavelkind, p. 273.

churches, as thoſe of Egerton, Pluckley, Great Chart and Kingſnoth, and from thence to the hill on the edge of Romney-marſh, below Orleſtone, near Ham, and ſo by Warehorne church, including the ſame, and from thence by the bottom of the hill below Kednardington church to Apledore, and ſo down the ſtream till they meet the county of Suſſex. And here it may be noted, that where pariſhes extend into the Weald, and their churches ſtand above the hill, the land of theſe pariſhes are called by the names of both Upland and Weald; thus there is Sevenoke-upland and Sevenoke-weald, Sundridge-upland and Sundridge-weald, and the like, in a great number of inſtances.

The Weald, when viewed from the adjoining hills, which command a proſpect over the whole of it, exhibits the moſt delightful ſcene that can be imagined. It appears to the eye an extenſive level country (the few hills in it being ſo ſmall and inferior to thoſe from whence it is viewed,) covered with all the richneſs of both art and nature, the variety of ſmall incloſures of corn and meadow, and the houſes, ſeats and villages promiſcuouſly interſperſed among the large and towering oaks, which grow over the whole face of it, have the moſt pleaſing effect, and repreſent to us, even at this time, ſomething, though a great improvement of its original ſtate, in the idea of an inhabited and well cultivated foreſt.

Mr. Lambarde, in his Perambulation, gives this tract of country a good character, both for health and fertility, which indeed it well deſerves; he ſays, here are at once to be found the commodities *cæli* and *ſoli*, both of the air and of the ſoil. The ſoil is in general ſoft under foot, moſtly clay, and full of marle, and this ſoftneſs of ground enables them to perform all their carriage and huſbandry buſineſs with oxen, and thoſe unſhod. But though this is the general ſoil of the Weald, yet there are other kinds in it, as ſand about Tenterden, Cranbrook, &c. gravel about the lower part

of

of East Peckham and part of Hadlow; and at Bethersden there is much broad stone, commonly called *Bethersden marble*, and in the parts near Sussex there is plenty of iron mines. The pastures in it are very rich and fertile, and great numbers of fine cattle are continually fatted on them, as well for the supply of this county as the London markets. The soil of the Weald is particularly adapted to the growth of the oak, which in these parts increase to an amazing size, one of which was felled a few years ago at Penshurst, in the park there, which had twenty one tons of timber in it, or eight hundred and forty feet. Every inclosure in the Weald is surrounded with these trees, and every coppice and wood is full of them, and though they yearly afford a supply for the royal navy of Great Britain, yet in all probability there will be sufficient remaining for the use of it for ages yet to come.

This great forest, being at first neither peopled nor cultivated, and filled only with herds of deer and droves of swine, belonging wholly to the king, for there is no mention of it but in royal grants and donations. Hence it had the appellation of *Saltus regalis*, *sylva communis*, &c. and it seems, at least the greatest part of it, not to have been parcelled out into either parishes or manors, till after the time of the Norman conquest, there being no mention in Domesday of any independent manors in the Weald, much less was it made any use of in the time of the Romans, who, in all likelihood, were kept out of it by the thickness of the woods and the depth of the soil. But in the royal donations of lands lying out of the Weald, as well to the religious as to others, there is frequent mention made of pannage for hogs in *Andredesweald*; thus, if a *prædium*, or possession, a farm, seat, or mansion was given to any one out of the Weald, in the nature of what we call a manor or lordship, it was the usual custom to accommodate it with an additional grant of a common of pannage in the Weald in the same deed; but this was with a limitation

a limitation uſually, and with reference to ſuch and ſuch a part of it, and theſe parts were called *dens*, *denberies*, or *wealdberies*, which had particular names aſſigned to them, and thus by degrees the Weald, being in this manner portioned out, came to belong to certain known owners, and began by little and little to be cultivated, as the reſt of the country. After which, the lands in it being appendant on manors elſewhere, the tenants of them, in reſpect to their holdings and tenancies here, became liable to the lord, of whom they held, for ſervices and cuſtoms, as other tenants elſewhere, ſuch as fealty, ſuit of court, reliefs, and other local ſervices and cuſtoms. As a farther teſtimony of which I ſhall only add, that in king Edward III. and Richard II.'s time, the then archbiſhop of Canterbury, and the prior and convent of Chriſt-church, moſt probably, among other lords and owners of the wealdiſh dens, finding themſelves aggrieved by their tenants there, and others, in the waſting and making havoc of their woods, which by the former feoffments they had expreſsly reſerved to themſelves, to quit and rid themſelves of farther care and trouble in relation to the wood, entered into a compoſition with their tenants, and for a new annual rent of aſſiſe (generally equal to what money was paid before) made the wood over to them by indenture of feoffment in perpetuity, either to be cut down or left ſtanding, at the tenants choice, reſerving ſtill their old accuſtomed rent, and all their former ſervices, except what upon parting with their wood was unreaſonable to require, *pannage* and *danger*, ever ſince which the intereſt of the lord ſo compounding has been taken off, as to the wood itſelf, and nothing left remaining but ſo much rent of aſſiſe, the new and the old, with the former ſervices, as above-mentioned.[a]

As to *the people* with which this county is inhabited, they conſiſt, as in others, of nobility, gentry, yeo-

[a] Somn. Rom. Ports, p. 108-115.

men

men, artificers, ſeafaring men, and labourers, whoſe poſſeſſions in it were at firſt diſtinguiſhed by the names of *knights fee* and *gavel-kind*, that is, the tenure of knights ſervice and ſocage, the former appertaining to the ſoldier, and the latter to the huſbandman. Which ſocage tenure of gavelkind has now ſo entirely ſwallowed up the other of knights ſervice, that all lands within the county are preſumed to hold by it, excepting they are particularly proved to be otherwiſe, which very rarely happens.

Although there are many antient families among the gentry of this county, ſome of which derive their origin from the Saxons, yet there are not ſo many in it as in thoſe parts of Britain at a diſtance from London; the luxury of which having impoveriſhed many of our gentry, they are forced to give place and are ſucceeded by citizens, merchants, and lawyers, who, having acquired wealth in that great city, and being deſirous of procuring a permanent ſettlement ſomewhere, are continually purchaſing their manors, houſes, and lands; but with theſe the poſſeſſion ſeldom remains for more than three generations, as may be ſeen by numberleſs inſtances, in the account of them hereafter.

*The gentry* in this county are not only noted for their civility and hoſpitality to ſtrangers, and their good neighbourhood and convivial intercourſe with each other, but for their liberal and generous carriage to their inferiors; and as to their charities to the poor, there are few counties where there are greater inſtances than in this. They generally cultivate a large part of their eſtates themſelves, as well for the profit and maintenance of their families as for the pleaſure which the employment brings with it. They are fond of the country recreations of hunting, ſhooting, and fiſhing, and take much pains to preſerve the game on their manors, but this ſeldom breeds quarrels among them, as it does in moſt other counties.

*The*

*The yeomanry*, which in moſt other parts of the kingdom is confined to the common people only, as indeed the name ſhews, for it is ſo called from the Saxon word *gemen*, which ſignifies common, is extended much higher in Kent, for it here likewiſe comprehends the principal farmers and landholders, who either from their education or intercourſe of life, are not eſteemed by the gentry of equal rank with themſelves, and yet, in point of wealth and poſſeſſions, they are frequently ſuperior to many of them, who, though they write themſelves *yeomen*, yet are uſually and very properly ſtiled *gentlemen farmers*, for beſides the largeneſs of their holdings, which are from four hundred to twelve hundred pounds per annum, they have in general good eſtates and freeholds of their own, and ſome even to the amount of what they hire. And as to their hoſpitality and expence of living, it is in general much ſuperior to that of their landlords.

Below theſe are the *common yeomanry*, on whom thoſe above-mentioned look down, as of a rank much inferior to themſelves, though if there is any diſtinction between them, it muſt have been in the luxury of the times, and the accumulation of farms, that have given them this ſuperiority.

*The common yeomen* appear in the honeſt homely garb of their profeſſion, ſuch as their forefathers wore, and moſtly content themſelves with the hiring of a ſingle farm, and the addition of their own little eſtate, for they are in general poſſeſſed of ſome. Their manners and behaviour correſpond with their dreſs, they are juſt and civil in their dealings and behaviour, and enjoy the domeſtic happineſs of their own homes. But theſe *yeomen* or *franklyns*, the moſt uſeful and profitable ſet of men that this kingdom has in it, become fewer every year, and if luxury and the monopoly of farms increaſe, as they have within theſe few years paſt, they will be very ſoon extirpated, not only from this county, but from the kingdom in general.

From

From theſe yeomen laſt mentioned come the labourers, with which this county is ſupplied, the eldeſt ſon ſucceeds to his father's homeſtal, and the others, in general, ſeek their livelihood by ſervice in the neighbourhood, either in huſbandry or in the woods, and each ſon ſucceeding on his father's deceaſe to a diviſion of his freehold, by the cuſtom of *gavelkind*, which everywhere prevails, every man becomes a freeholder, and has ſome part of his own to live upon.

*This diſtribution of freeholds* cements a good underſtanding between the gentry and yeomen, their lands being everywhere ſo much intermixed one with the other, obliges them to a mutual civility for their own intereſt and convenience, nor are the latter ſo much dependent on the gentry as the inhabitants of moſt other counties, by copyhold or cuſtomary tenures, of which there are very few in it, which ſtate of freedom is productive of good will and kindneſs from the one ſort to the other, there being no part of the kingdom where the people are more quietly governed, or ſubmit with more pleaſure to the laws and magiſtracy of the country.

*The number of freeholds* in the county of Kent are ſuppoſed to be about nine thouſand, which is ſurpriſing, conſidering the large poſſeſſions which the two epiſcopal dioceſes, the two cathedrals of Canterbury and Rocheſter, and ſeveral of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, and other bodies corporate are entitled to in it; which, at a rack-rent, are computed at upwards of 80,000l. per annum, beſides parſonages and portions of tithes.

In the time of the Saxons the contents of this kingdom were computed by the number of hides, in an antient ſchedule of which Kent, called therein *Cantwarena*, is eſtimated to contain fifteen thouſand hides.[a] Various are the conjectures of the meaning of the word

[a] Vide Spelm. Gloſſ. p. 292.

*hide*,

*hide* ſome taking it for a particular portion of land, containing one hundred acres; others think it means the ſame as *carucata*, a plough-land; others again will have it meant for a family or a dwelling, with the lands and appurtenances belonging to it, in nature of a manor; which laſt opinion ſeems beſt calculated for the above eſtimation.

By modern calculations it is ſuppoſed to contain 1,248,000 acres, and about 40,000 houſes. There are ſuppoſed to be in it about 200,000 inhabitants, of which 60,000 are able-bodied men.

In the reign of queen Elizabeth, annis 1574 and 1575, the muſter taken in this county was—able men 8960, armed men 6000, ſelected men 780, artificers and pioneers 800, demi-lances 15, and light horſe 787.[a]

Before the militia of this kingdom was new modelled, there was, by the act of 12 Charles II. the ſum of 70,000l. per month raiſed on the ſeveral counties of England and Wales, for the furniſhing ammunition and other neceſſaries; of which ſum this county paid 3655l. 11s. 2d. which was more than any other county, excepting Suffolk, which was equal, and London, which paid 4666l. 13s. 4d.

When the militia was altered to the preſent mode, the return made from this county of able-bodied men, fit to ſerve in it, was 16,757 in Weſt Kent, and 9164 in Eaſt Kent, and in all, 25,921. According to which, the proportion of militia-men allotted for this county by parliament was, for Weſt Kent, 621, for Eaſt Kent, including the city of Canterbury, 339, in all 960. It muſt be obſerved, that thoſe dwelling in the cinque-ports, and their members were omitted, as well as all ſeamen, ſeafaring-men, men employed in the dock-yards, clergymen, and others excepted from this ſervice by the militia laws, who altogether make a very conſiderable number.

[a] Peck's Deſid. Cur. vol. i. p. 23.

The

*The number of houſes* in this county paying chimney, or hearth money, being all thoſe which were above the annual value of twenty ſhillings, and without any land, was, in the year 1685, 29,242. This tax was aboliſhed at the revolution, and the land-tax was eſtabliſhed, which proved a very heavy burthen, to this county in particular; for as the pretence for raiſing it was merely to oppoſe the deſigns of the French, and for carrying on the war againſt them at that time only, many loyal perſons, and friends to the revolution in this county, gave in the value of their eſtates to the crown aſſeſſors, ſent round among them for that purpoſe, at their real annual rent. Whereas others, more cautious, knowing that a tax when once impoſed is ſeldom taken off again, gave in the value of their eſtates at an eighth, or a fourth, or a half of their annual rent; by which means the eſtates in the northern counties of this kingdom, whoſe inhabitants are noted for being wary, even to a proverb, are taxed at but an eighth, or a fourth part in proportion to this county; which is in general aſſeſſed to the land-tax at two parts out of three of the real rents, though ſeveral pariſhes are aſſeſſed at the full ſum for which they are let.

*This county*, with the city of Canterbury, and the cinque ports, and their members, are aſſeſſed for 412,566l. and one penny farthing, and a fraction of the third part of a penny rents, which, at one ſhilling in the pound, amounts to 20,628l. 6s. 1d. farthing, and the part of the ſaid fraction, being the proportion allotted to it towards raiſing the ſum of 509,527l. 6s. aſſeſſed upon this kingdom.

ALL property in the ſoil of this realm is derived from the kings thereof; for at the beginning, all lands were veſted in them: but they, willing to gratify and reward their nobles and great men, for their ſervices, granted

granted them large quantities of land, for them and their heirs to dwell upon; which by the Saxons were ſtiled *hida*, *familia*, *manſura*, *manſum*, *caſuta*, &c. At the ſame time the king empowered them to exerciſe ſome juriſdiction, more or leſs, within their ſeveral precincts, on their performing to him ſuch ſervices, and paying ſuch yearly rents as their ſeveral grants required; and where the privileges of *ſac*, *ſoc*, *tol*, and *theam*, &c. were conferred with land to any perſon, the Saxons called it *prædium*, or *villa*, and the lords thereof exerciſed a juriſdiction within his precincts, in his own court, appertenant to it, and this is now called a court baron.

But after William the Conqueror had gained the battle at Haſtings, and had eſtabliſhed the crown upon himſelf, a great change was made in the property of this kingdom by that conqueſt; for he ſeized all the lands in it into his own hands, moſt of which he preſently gave to his great Normans, in conſideration of their ſervices in that expedition; at the ſame time he exerciſed the greateſt cruelties on the native Engliſh, many of whom, being thus driven out of their poſſeſſions, were forced to betake themſelves to woods and deſarts, where they were conſtrained to live as ſavages; and all degrees of them were reduced to ſuch miſery and ſervitude, that it was held a diſgrace to be accounted an Engliſhman.

There was alſo diligent enquiry made, who had fought againſt the king, and had ſaved themſelves by flight; from theſe, and the heirs of thoſe who had been ſlain in that battle, all hopes were taken away of obtaining their lands or poſſeſſions again, nay, it was thought a great favor that they were permitted to live. However, thoſe who had not taken up arms, nor had been in the battle, obtained afterwards ſome favour from their new lords, though for ſome time without hope, that their children ſhould ſucceed therein; yet, at length, their ſons were ſuffered to retain their poſſeſſions,

ſions, at the will of the lord; but this was by agreement for merit and ſervices, and not by deſcent, in which they were not allowed to challenge any thing. Beſides the above, the Conqueror made uſe of other oppreſſive means to ſecure his dominion. He built caſtles in different parts of the realm, and under the pretence of preventing tumults in the night-ſeaſon, he not only diſarmed the Engliſh, but cauſed a bell to be rung in every pariſh at eight o'clock in the evening (which from thence was called the *coverfeu*:) at the ſound of which, every one was to cover his fire and go to reſt: nay, he ſo humbled the poor Engliſh, that they were glad to imitate the Normans, even in the cutting their hair and ſhaving their beards, and were even forced to conform themſelves to the pattern of their new maſters in their very cups and diſhes.

The Saxons obtained the original of their juriſdictions from the grants of their princes; but the Normans had their manors from the feudal law: for whoever could diſpoſe of fees might give laws to their vaſſals, erect courts for paſſing eſtates, and take the other privileges belonging to a noble fee.

The Conqueror, by introducing the feudal ſyſtem into this kingdom, became poſſeſſed of a very conſiderable army for the defence of the realm, conſiſting of upwards of 60,000 (for there were ſo many knights fees) of his principal ſubjects; a national militia, conſiſting of barons, knights, and gentlemen, bound by their intereſt, their honour, and their oaths, to defend him and their country; under whom the reſt of his lay-ſubjects were employed in tilling the ground, and other domeſtic buſineſs; for there were at that time but two ſorts of laymen in this country, military men and huſbandmen:[a] ſo that whilſt the former was called

[a] Chauncy's Hertfordſh. p. 7, et ſeq. Brady's Hiſt. Eng. p. 155. Blackſtone's Comm. vol. ii. p. 86. Spelm. Gloſſ. Ibid. poſth. Works, p. 5.

abroad to perform his military ſervices, the latter ſtaid at home, and performed his duty and ſervices in the managing and cultivation of his lands.

Thoſe great Norman lords, to whom the king made theſe grants, which were, many of them, of ſuch great extent, that they comprehended perhaps the greateſt part of a county, nay, ſome the whole of it, were all bound to hold the ſame by the performance of ſome particular ſervice; which, being ſo held immediately of the king, as of his crown, and not of any other mediate honour, caſtle, or manor, were called *tenures in capite*; the moſt free and honourable of all others.

Theſe lands, ſo holden, were called by the Saxons *thain land*, and the holders of them *thani majores*, and *thani regis*, and by the Normans *barons*, and *baronies*. The ſervice which theſe immediate tenants of the king were bound to yield was, either to attend the king in his wars, according to the number of knights fees which they poſſeſſed, or by doing ſome ſpecial honorable ſervice to the king in perſon; as, to carry his ſword, banner, or the like, or to be his butler, champion, &c. which was called *ſergeantry*, and was a ſpecies of knights ſervice, as well as the former.

There were alſo lands held of the king *in ſocage*, as of his crown, or *in capite*, as well as by knights ſervice.

The extenſiveneſs of theſe grants obliged theſe *tenants in capite*, after reſerving a conſiderable lordſhip round their caſtle, or manſion, to create other manors out of them, which were held by *meſne tenants* of the above principal caſtle, or manor, by the ſervice of ſo many knights fees, according to the contents of the lands granted, or otherwiſe, as ſtipulated by the firſt lord; and theſe inferior manors, by the like example, were again parcelled out into others to hold of the above *meſne lord*, by certain ſervices in the ſame manner. All which manors were occupied by the loweſt tenants,

tenants, of them called *tenants paravail*, as being he who is ſuppoſed to avail himſelf of the profits of the land; theſe again held of the laſt lord, for the acres they poſſeſſed, either by knights ſervice or in free ſocage, or by copy of court roll. And in this manner were all the lands in England held that were in the hands of ſubjects. Theſe manors or lordſhips were parcelled out by each of theſe lords as follows: firſt, he reſerved to himſelf the beſt part of his land, for his own uſe and maintenance of his family, which was called *terra dominicalis*, or *demeſne land*; after which, that he might render his habitation complete, and ſupply it with all manner of neceſſaries, he granted a certain portion of ſome of the diſtant parts of it to his moſt truſty ſervants or vaſſals, without any limited number, for their aid and aſſiſtance in war, either by the finding a horſe and arms, or the like, for that purpoſe, or going thither with him when he went in perſon with the king, either himſelf, or a ſufficient man in his place, there to be maintained at his coſt ſo many days as were agreed upon between the lord and the firſt tenant, at the granting of the fee, which days were rated according to the quantity of land ſo holden.[a]

To this were added homage, fealty, wardſhip, marriage, aid, relief, and eſcheat, and this tenure was called knights ſervice, and the holding a knight's fee; and if the ſame was not ſufficient in value and quantity for hiring of one ſoldier, yet, according to the ſhare and portion of it which they enjoyed, they contributed ſuch a part towards the lord's military expences, or performed the ſervice only part of the time, that is, half, a third, or fourth, and this was called holding ſuch premiſes by the half, a third, or fourth part of one knight's fee, which, in the reign of the Conqueror,

[a] Chauncy's Hertf. p. 11. Spelman's Poſth. Works. Præf. Blackſtone's Comm. vol. ii. p. 59, 60, 90. Brady's Hiſt. of Eng. p. 158. Philipott, p. 39. Cowel's Law Interpreter. Spelman's Works, p. 249. Coke's Inſt. p. 69.

was ſtated at twenty pounds per annum; the quantity of the land was different, according to the quality of it, and a certain number of theſe fees were requiſite to make up a barony.[a]

Another part of his manor he diſtributed to ſuch as were to perform for it all ruſtic and ſervile works to his manſion and demeſne lands, ſuch as ploughing and ſowing his lands, reaping his corn, carrying it into the barn, threſhing it, digging, hedging, and taking care of his flocks, repairing his houſe, paling his park, and the like, perhaps in the proportion of thirty, forty, or ſixty acres to each. Another part he allotted to thoſe who were to furniſh him with proviſion, ſuch as capons, hens, corn, pepper, and comin, with flowers, as roſes, gilliflowers, &c. or with apparel, as ſpurs, gloves, or the like, or to pay him a certain rent, and to be ſworn to be his faithful tenant. All which tenures, not being military, but certain ſervices (which have been long ſince turned into money or quit rents) were called *tenures in ſocage*. Spelman ſays, that lord Coke is miſtaken, when he lays down, that land held in ſocage was called by the Saxons *reveland*, in oppoſition to *thainland*, and farther, that reveland was ſuch land as had, by the death of the thane, reverted to the king, and was in the hands of his reve or bailiff, and thence called reveland;[b] of which kind, called *tenures in ſocage*, were the lands held in antient demeſne, petit ſergeantry, and burgage. Tenants in ſocage paid a relief certain, to which is ſometimes added a *heriot*, according to the cuſtom or ſervice of the manor, on death or alienation, not as in the caſe of knights ſervice, but one or more years rent, and no wardſhip, or other profit, accrued to the lord.

A remaining part of the lands of the manor was manured by his peaſants or bondſmen, the lord ap-

[a] Blackſtone, p. 62. Coke's Inſt. p. 69.
[b] Spelman, part ii. p. 38.

pointing

pointing the manner of their holding it at the courts of his manor, making an entry of it in the rolls there, though he had ſtill the power of taking it away from them at his pleaſure, and therefore they were called *tenants at will by copy of court-roll.* Theſe were thus, in reality, bondſmen at the beginning, but having obtained their freedom by degrees, and gained a cuſtom, by uſe, of occupying their lands, inſomuch, that the lord could not put them out, they were called *copyholders.* Some of theſe held for one, two, or three lives ſucceſſively, and others from heir to heir, for *cuſtom* rules all theſe eſtates wholly. There was ſtill a reſidue of the manor, which was termed the *lord's waſte*, which ſerved for public roads and common paſture for the lord and his tenants.

For the good order and government of ſo large a tract of land, and ſo many different tenants, it was but reaſonable that the lord ſhould hold a court, which, from the Norman uſage, was called a *court baron*, and aſſemble his tenants at certain times by him to be appointed. In this court he was to be informed by their oaths of all ſuch dues, rents, reliefs, eſcheats, &c. that had happened to him, which information is called a *preſentment*, and then his bailiff was to ſeize and diſtrain for the ſame, if they were denied or withholden; and here alſo debts and treſpaſſes, under the value of forty ſhillings, might be ſued for, and the freeholders of the manor were to judge the cauſe, and therefore they, as incident to their tenures, did hold by *ſuit of court*, that is, by their attendance at this court, there to judge between party and party in theſe actions, as well as to make the preſentment on the behalf of the lord, as above-mentioned.

The tenant *in capite* was, under the king, *lord paramount* over all the manors and diſtrict of country held by his *meſne* tenants, as each of theſe were in turn over thoſe who, in like manner, held under them; which ſeignory of the firſt lord is frequently termed an *honour*,

eſpecially if it has belonged to ſome antient feodal baron, or has been at any time in the hands of the crown.

The inferior lords having, as above-mentioned, began to carve out and grant to others theſe ſtill more minute eſtates, to be held as of themſelves, were ſtill proceeding downwards, *ad infinitum*, till the ſuperior lords obſerved, that by this method of *ſubinfeudation* they loſt all their feodal profits, which fell into the hands of theſe meſne or middle lords, who were the immediate ſuperiors of the tenant, or him who occupied the land. This occaſioned the ſtatute of Weſtminſter, paſſed in the 18th year of king Edward I. and named, from the two firſt words in it, *Quia emptores*, to be made; by which it is enacted, that for the future no ſubject ſhould create any new tenants to hold of himſelf. From whence it is held, that all manors exiſting at this day, muſt have exiſted by immemorial preſcription, at leaſt before the making of that ſtatute; for no new manor can have been created ſince, becauſe it is eſſential to it, that there be tenants to hold of the lord. Theſe inferior manors were increaſed to that degree in this county, that every little farm, containing ninety or an hundred acres of land, became a manor, and held its court, but the expences attending the holding of them greatly exceeding the profits accruing from them, theſe courts have long been diſuſed, and the ſmall rents and ſervices loſt, ſo that they are now ſtiled *manors by repute*, having no other privilege but the preſervation of game to their reſpective lords. At length, by the degenerating of knights ſervice, or perſonal military duty, into *eſcuage*, or pecuniary aſſeſſments, all the advantages of the feodal ſyſtem were deſtroyed, and only the hardſhips remained. Palliatives were applied from time to time by ſucceſſive acts of parliament to relieve the nation from ſo complicated a grievance, and king James I. formed a plan for exchanging the military tenures, and annexing a fee farm to the crown

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as a compenſation in lieu of them, and king Charles I. was obliged to part with the power of compelling his tenants, who held by knights ſervice, to receive knighthood. At length, at the reſtoration of king Charles II. theſe military tenures, with all their appendages, were deſtroyed by the ſtatute of the twelfth year of that reign, by which the court of wards and liveries, and all wardſhips, liveries,[a] primer ſeiſins, and ouſterlemains, values and forfeitures of marriages, by reaſon of any tenure of the king or others were totally taken away, as were all fines for alienations, tenures by homage, knights ſervice, and eſcuage, and alſo aids for marrying the daughter or knighting the ſon, and all tenures of the king in capite; and all ſorts of tenures held of the king or others were turned into free and common ſocage, ſave only tenures in frank almoign, copyholds, and the honorary ſervices of grand ſergeantry. During the continuance of military tenants among us, upon the death of every one of the king's tenants, an inqueſt of office was held, called, an *inquiſitio poſt mortem*, to enquire of what lands he died ſeiſed, who was his heir, of what age, and by what ſervice he held, in order to entitle the king to his wardſhip, marriage, relief, &c. as the caſe might turn out. This inquiſition was made by jury, by the king's eſcheator, aſſiſted by the feodary of the county, and to ſuperintend and regulate theſe enquiries, the court of wards and liveries was inſtituted by ſtatute in the 32d year of king Henry VIII. and aboliſhed as above.[b]

THE SOCAGE TENURES of *Antient Demeſne* and *Gavelkind* claim our next remembrance. The former of which conſiſts of thoſe lands and manors which were the antient inheritance of the crown, and

[a] Philipott, p. 39. Blackſtone, vol. ii. p. 75 et ſeq. Brady's Hiſ. Eng. p. 159. Spelm. p. 10. [b] Blackſtone, vol. iii. p. 258.

actually in the hands of it in the time of king Edward the Confeſſor or William the Conqueror, and which appear to have been ſo by the great ſurvey of Domeſday, in the exchequer, in which they are entered under the title of *Terra Regis*. Moſt of theſe have been from time to time granted out to private ſubjects, but the tenants of them, under the crown, were not all of the ſame order and degree; ſome of them continued for a long time in abſolute villenage, dependent on the will of the lord, and thoſe that ſucceeded them in their tenures now differ from common copyholders in only a few points. Others were in a great meaſure enfranchiſed by the royal favour, holding their lands by the better ſort of villein ſervices, all which are now changed into pecuniary rents, in conſideration of which they had many immunities and privileges granted to them, as to try the right of their property in a peculiar court of their own, called a *court of antient demeſne*, not to pay toll or taxes, not to contribute to the expences of the knights of the ſhire, not to be put upon juries, and the like. The latter of theſe, *the ſocage tenure of gavelkind*, prevails in general over this county, to which, within the bounds of it, there are certain ſpecial cuſtoms inherent, called antiently *Conſuetudines Kantiæ*, being the *common law* of Kent. Various are the opinions of our antiquaries concerning the etymology of the word *gavelkind*, but that which is moſt natural and beſt ſupported, both by reaſon and authority, is drawn from the nature of the ſervices. According to this expoſition of the term, it is derived from the Saxon word *gafol* or *gavel*, which ſignifies rent, or a cuſtomary performance of huſbandry works, and therefore they called the lands, which yield this kind of ſervice, *gavelkind*; that is, the kind of land that yields rent. In this opinion were Mr. Lambarde, Somner, and Philipott. There are four treatiſes printed concerning *gavelkind*—Mr. Somner's, which is confined to the etymology of the name, and the original and antiquity of

of the cuſtom, with a few other ſpeculative points; Mr. Taylor's treats of the hiſtory and etymology of *gavelkind* in general, without any particular regard to the Kentiſh cuſtoms, to which he was an entire ſtranger; Mr. Lambarde's is intended only as a ſummary account, moſtly confined to the points of the *cuſtumal*; and Mr. Robinſon's, which is an excellent book, for it not only comprehends whatever is uſeful in the others, but contains a full account of both *tenure* and *cuſtumal*; beſides which, it is a complete *law treatiſe* on theſe heads, and is of ſuch authority in the courts, that it is in general referred to by the judges, as a direction to them to proceed in the knotty and before unknown points of this tenure and cuſtom.

If this is the true etymology, it is plain, that *gavelkind*, taken in the ſtricteſt ſenſe of the word, denotes *the tenure* of the land only, and that the partibility, and other cuſtomary qualities, are rather extrinſic and accidental to *gavelkind*, from the cuſtomary laws of the place, than neceſſarily comprehended under that term.[a]

*Gavelkind lands* are not peculiar to the county of Kent; there are many inſtances of them in different parts of this realm, which are ſaid to partake of the nature and cuſtom of *gavelkind*, a ſtile they have aſſumed ſince the *diſgavelling* ſtatute of the 31ſt of king Henry VIII. before which they are never mentioned as gavelkind land, but only, that they were ſuch as were partible, and had been parted; and ſo peculiar is this tenure eſteemed to be to this county, that, whereas in all other places, the claimant is obliged to ſet forth particularly the cuſtom whereon he founds his right to the lands, as being of the nature and tenure of gavelkind; in this county it is ſufficient to ſhew the cuſtom at large, and to ſay that the lands lie in Kent, and are of the nature of gavelkind, of which all lands lying within the county are preſumed to be, till the con-

[a] Blackſtone's Comm. vol. ii. p. 99.

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trary be made to appear. And this is the reaſon why the books call *gavelkind* in this county by a higher appellation than is given to any other cuſtom, viz. *The common law of Kent.* It is certain, that all lands in this county which were antiently and originally holden in ſocage tenure, are of the nature of gavelkind, of which ſort were moſt of the *terre tenants* of the ſeveral ſeignories in it, who held by that tenure, notwithſtanding their chief lords held by military ſervice.

The cuſtom of *gavelkind* cannot either be created or taken away, by any change of tenure nor by any other means, but by act of parliament; antiently, indeed, our kings exerciſed a prerogative of changing the *cuſtomary* deſcent, together with the tenure, which power was ſometimes delegated to others; for king John, in his third year, by his charter, authoriſed Hubert, archbiſhop of Canterbury, to change the gavelkind tenures holden of the ſee of Canterbury into tenures by knights ſervice.

The *ſpecial cuſtoms* incident to *gavelkind*, in Kent, are—That the huſband, after his wife's death, enjoys a moiety of her inheritance in *gavelkind* by courteſy, whether he has children by her or not, until he marries again. The wife, after the death of her huſband, has for her dower a moiety of his lands in *gavelkind*, for ſo long time as ſhe ſhall continue unmarried and in chaſtity; after which, ſaith the cuſtom,

> He that does turn or wend her,
> Let him alſo give unto her or lend her.

The tenant of *gavelkind* lands is kept in ward one year longer than is permitted by the common law; that is, till he is fifteen years of age, at which time he is of ſufficient age to alien his eſtate by feoffment. Lands in *gavelkind*, if the tenant commits felony, and ſubmits to the judgment of he law, are not forfeited

feited, nor do they eſcheat to the king or other lord of whom they are holden, which has given occaſion to the proverbial expreſſion,

The father to the bough,
And the ſon to the plough.

Nor has the king year, day, and waſte of lands in *gavelkind*, holden of a common perſon, where the tenant is executed for felony.

The tenant had a power of deviſing lands by will, before the ſtatute for that purpoſe was made in the 32d year of king Henry VIII.

Lands in *gavelkind* deſcend to all the ſons alike in equal portions, and if there are no ſons, then equally among the daughters; and as to the chattels, it was formerly part of the cuſtom of this county to divide them, after the funeral and the debts of the deceaſed were diſcharged, into three parts, if he left any lawful iſſue behind him, of which three, one portion was to the dead, for the performance of legacies; another to his children, for education; and a third to the wife, for her ſupport and maintenance.

Furthermore, if the tenant of *gavelkind* lands withdraws from his lord his due rents and ſervices, the cuſtom of this county gives the lord a ſpecial and ſolemn kind of *ceſſavit*, called *gavelet*, by which, unleſs the tenant redeems his lands by payment of the arrearages, and makes reaſonable amends for withholding the ſame, they become forfeited to the lord, and he enters into them and occupies them as his own demeſnes.

The tenants in *gavelkind* in this county claim the privilege, that where a writ of right is brought concerning *gavelkind* lands, that the grand aſſiſe ſhall not be choſen in the uſual manner by four knights, but by four tenants in *gavelkind*, who ſhall not aſſociate to themſelves twelve knights, but that number of tenants

tenants in *gavelkind*; and further, that trial by battle ſhall not be allowed in ſuch a writ for theſe lands; notwithſtanding this claim, one of the laſt inſtances in our books, of battle joined in a writ of right, was between Lowe and Paramour, for lands in Harty, which were *gavelkind*. The pompous account of the ceremony, preparatory to the combat, is worth reading.[a]

There were ſome other privileges relating to *gavelkind* lands which are now obſolete, ſuch as their exemption from ſerving on juries in attaints, which was taken away by ſtatute, anno 18 Henry VI. that no man ſhould have common in lands of that nature; the privilege of driving off cattle found damage feſant on *gavelkind* lands; and alſo a cuſtom peculiar to the Weald, that the lords, of whom the *drove-dennes* were holden in *gavelkind*, ſhould have all the great oaks, aſh, and beech growing there, together with the pannage thereof, and the tenants only the underwood, or at moſt the oak, aſh, and beech, under forty years growth; and there remains no footing of this right at this day, this claim being given up by the lords by their agreement with their tenants in the time of Edward III. and Richard II.[b] The Kentiſh *cuſtumal* likewiſe claims, as a cuſtom common to all Kentiſhmen, that their bodies be free, as well as the other free bodies of England, which was formerly, whilſt many of the ſubjects of this kingdom remained under a ſtate of hereditary bondage, a moſt glorious and valuable birthright. Probably this privilege might have its commencement from ſome ſtatute made for this purpoſe, for Somner has ſhewn, beyond contradiction, by ſeveral antient records, that there have been villeins in Kent ſince the conqueſt.

[a] Coke's Entries, p. 182. Speed's Chron. p. 1166.
[b] See above, p. cxxxv.

There

There remains yet another privilege, formerly claimed by the men of Kent, redounding much to the honour of their county, which is, that of being placed in the vanguard of the army, whenever they engaged in common with the reſt of their neighbours; which right was granted to them on account of their gallant and noble behaviour in the encounters between the Saxons and Danes, long before the conqueſt, and I ſhould ſuppoſe they would ſtill have an equal title to this honour, and am ſure they would as well deſerve it, was the national force of this kingdom at any time called out into actual ſervice againſt the common enemies of this kingdom.

There are ſeveral copies of the *Cuſtumal of Kent*, ſome in French, and others in Latin, in which laſt it is entitled, *Conſuetudines* and *Conſtitutiones Kantiæ*, all the copies of which differ exceedingly in many eſſential matters. There is one in manuſcript in the king's remembrancer's office, ſeveral in the Cotton library and among the Harlean manuſcripts in the Britiſh muſeum. Theſe copies, with the difference between them, may be ſeen in Robinſon's treatiſe on this ſubject. Mr. Lambarde has given a copy of the *Cuſtumal* in French in both of his editions, which differ exceedingly; and he owns, in his laſt edition, that the copy there printed is what he had procured ſince the former, and that it was by far the moſt perfect. It has, in moſt of the Latin copies, the high appellation of *ſtatutum de conſuetudinibus Kanciæ*, which my lord Coke alſo gives it; but it has no other foundation for this title than its being met with in old collections of ſtatutes, as many other matters are, which were never enacted by authority of parliament. However, thus much muſt be ſaid for the preſent authority of this *Cuſtumal*; of whatever original it may be, it has received ſuch a ſanction from its antiquity,[c]

[c] Robinſon's Gavelkind, p. 276, 280.

that

that it has been admitted in evidence to a jury, even from Lambarde's copy.

There were in former times repeated claims made of theſe liberties and cuſtoms before the *Kentiſh juſtices in eyre*, particularly in the reign of king Henry III. and Edward I. on account of the continual encroachments made on them, as well by the ſheriffs as the reſt of the crown officers, and the uſage of them was continually allowed in theſe *iters*. In one of which, on a general claim of theſe liberties and cuſtoms, which the reſt of the kingdom had not the uſage of, as the record now in the Surrenden library ſets forth, upon occaſion of ſome burthens laid on the commonalty of this county, derogatory to them, after enumerating each particular cuſtom, and pleading —that this county ought of right to be free from the grievances therein complained of, the record continues, becauſe the ſaid county was not conquered with the reſt of the kingdom, but ſurrendered itſelf up to the Conqueror by a peace made with him, and a ſaving to itſelf of all liberties and free cuſtoms before that time had and uſed. This tranſaction is thus celebrated by the old poet, Michael Drayton, in his poem :[a]

..... O noble Kent, this praiſe doth thee belong,
Moſt hard to be controll'd, impatienteſt of wrong,
Who, when the Norman firſt, with pride and horror ſway'd,
Threw'ſt off the ſervile yoke upon the Engliſh laid,
And with a high reſolve moſt bravely did reſtore
That liberty ſo long enjoyed by thee before;
Not ſuff'ring foreign laws ſhould thy free cuſtoms bind,
Then only ſhewd'ſt thyſelf of antient Saxon kind.
Of all the Engliſh ſhires be thou ſurnamed the free,
And foremoſt ever plac'd when they ſhall reckon'd be;
And let the town which chief of this rich country is
Of all the Britiſh ſees be ſtill metropolis.

The

[a] Poly Olbion, ſong xviii.

The confirmation of theſe their antient privileges from the Conqueror was, no doubt, neceſſary for ſuppoſing *gavelkind* to have been the common law of the kingdom, we find this county kept and ſtill enjoyed it by this compoſition, when almoſt all the reſt of the kingdom loſt it, and were forced to ſubmit to the new laws of the Conqueror, but whether this was managed by means of the moving wood at Swanſcombe, or by treaty there or elſewhere, I own, I have not yet met with any authority ſufficient to determine.

It is laid down as a rule, that nothing but an act of parliament can change the nature of *gavelkind* lands, and this has occaſioned the paſſing of ſeveral, for the purpoſe of *diſgavelling* the poſſeſſions of divers gentlemen in this county.

The ſeveral ſtatutes made for this purpoſe are private ſtatutes, none of which are printed in the ſtatute books, except that of 31 Henry VIII. They are as follows:

An act in the 11th year of king Henry VII. for diſgavelling the lands of Sir Richard Guldeford.

An act in the 15th year of king Henry VIII. for the lands of Sir Henry Wyat only.

An act in the 31ſt of king Henry VIII. for the lands of the following perſons; of which thoſe marked thus * are named both in this act and the following one of the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI.

THOMAS lord Cromwell,
Thomas lord Burghe,
George lord Cobham,
Andrew lord Windſore,
*Sir Thomas Cheyne,
Sir Chriſtopher Hales,
Sir Thomas Willoughby,
*John Guldeford,
*Thomas Kempe,
Edward Thwaites,
*William Roper,
Anthony Sandes,
Edward Iſaac,
Percival Harte,
Edward Monyns,
William Whetnall,
John Fogg,
*Sir Anthony St. Leger,
*Sir Edward Wotton,
Sir Edward Bowton,
*Sir Roger Chomley,
Sir John Champneys,

*John

*John Baker, eſq.
Reginald Scott,
Edward Fetiplace,
Thomas Hardres,
William Waller,
*Thomas Wilford,
*Thomas Moyle,
*Thomas Harlakenden,
Godfrey Lee,
*James Hales,
Henry Huſſey,
Thomas Roydon.

An act in the 2d and 3d of king Edward VI. for the lands of the following perſons:

*Sir Thomas Cheyne,
*Sir Anthony Seintleger,
Sir Robert Southwell,
*Sir John Baker,
*Sir Edward Wootton,
*Sir Roger Cholmley,
*Sir Thomas Moyle,
Sir John Gate,
Sir Edmund Walſingham,
*Sir John Guldeford,
Sir Humphry Style,
*Sir Thomas Kempe,
Sir Martin Bowes,
*Sir James Hales,
Sir Walter Hendley,
Sir George Harper,
Sir Henry Iſtley,
Sir George Blage,
Thomas Colepeper, of Bedgbury,
John Colepeper, of Aylesford,
Thomas Colepeper, ſon of the ſaid John,
*William Roper,
*Thomas Wylforde,
*Thomas Harlakenden,
William Twiſenden,
Thomas Darrel, of Scotney,
Robert Rudſtone,
Thomas Roberts,
Stephen Darrell,
Richard Coverte,
Chriſtopher Blower,
Thomas Hendley,
Thomas Harman,
Thomas Lovelace,
Reginald Peckham,
Herbert Fynche,
William Colepeper,
John Mayne,
Walter Mayne,
Thomas Walton,
John Tufton,
Thomas White,
Peter Hayman,
Thomas Argal.

An act in the 1ſt of queen Elizabeth for the lands of Thomas Browne, of Weſt Becheworth, in Surry, and George Browne, eſquire.

An act in the 8th of the ſame reign for the lands of Thomas Browne, eſquire.

An act in the 21ſt of king James I. for the lands of

Thomas Potter, eſquire,
Sir George Rivers, knight,
Sir John Rivers, baronet.

The

The words made uſe of in theſe ſtatutes are very general, ſuch as, that all manors, lands, tenements, &c. whatſoever, lying and being within the county of Kent, of which the perſons mentioned in the acts were at that time ſeiſed, which then were of the nature and tenure of *gavelkind*, ſhould from thenceforth be clearly changed from the ſaid cuſtom, tenure, and nature, and be made to deſcend according to the common law, as if the ſame had never been of the ſaid nature of *gavelkind*. Notwithſtanding the generality of which words, the courts have determined, that the ſtatutes of diſgavelling only took away the partibility, and not the other qualities and cuſtoms appertaining to lands in Kent.

The great length of time ſince theſe acts were paſſed, the continual change of property ſince, the extinction of the *court of wards*, and the *inquiſitiones poſt mortem*, the want of knowledge where records are depoſited, and the great expence of ſearching for them, the difficulty of proving what eſtates the perſons named in the *diſgavelling* ſtatutes were ſeiſed of at the time of making them, together with that of ſhewing what lands were formerly ſubject to military tenures, which increaſes every day ſince the abolition of them; theſe difficulties are become ſo great, that the poſſeſſors of lands entitled to the benefit of theſe acts chooſe, in general, to wave the privilege of them, and to let their lands paſs in common with thoſe of their neighbours, rather than enter into ſuch a labyrinth of trouble and expence; ſo that it may be aſſerted, that there is at this time almoſt as much land in this county ſubject to the controul of the cuſtom, as there was before the diſgavelling ſtatutes were made.[a]

[a] Robinſon, p. 55, 77, 83, 299, et ſeq.

THE RELIGIOUS in this kingdom, *as well biſhops as others*, in the time of the Saxons, held their poſſeſſions by a tenure, called in French, *frankalmoign*, in Latin, *libera eleemoſyna*, and *pura et perpetua eleemoſyna*, that is, *in free alms*, or *pure and perpetual alms*, to them and their ſucceſſors for ever. This is the tenure by which almoſt all the antient monaſteries and religious houſes held their lands, and by which the deans and chapters, clergy, and many other eccleſiaſtical and eleemoſynary foundations hold them at this day; for *frankalmoign* is excepted by name in the ſtatute of king Charles II. for aboliſhing tenures, and therefore ſubſiſts, in many inſtances, at this day. It is a tenure of a nature very diſtinct from all others; being not in the leaſt feodal, but merely ſpiritual, and was materially different from what was called tenure by divine ſervice, in which the tenants were obliged to do ſome ſpecial divine ſervices in certain.[a] It was an old Saxon tenure, and continued under the Norman revolution (excepting as to the biſhops and greater abbots, whoſe poſſeſſions were made ſubject by the Conqueror to knights ſervice *in capite*, through the great reſpect that was ſhewn to religion and religious men, whoſe prayers (as the laws of king Edward II. expreſs) ought to be looked upon as more effectual than the aſſiſtance of the ſecular arm, which is the reaſon that tenants in *frankalmoign* were diſcharged of all other ſecular ſervices, except the *trinoda neceſſitas* of repairing highways, building caſtles, and repelling invaſions, like as the Druids, among the antient Britons, had *omnium rerum immunitatem*.

The clergy of this realm, in antient times, were of two ſorts, *regular* and *ſecular*. The former were ſo

[a] Blackſtone, vol. ii. p. 102.

called

called becauſe they lived under the certain rules of ſome order, and made a vow of true obedience, perpetual chaſtity, and wilful poverty, of which ſort were all abbots, priors, and others profeſſing any of the religious orders, called in law *hommes de religion*, men of religion, or religious. The latter were perſons eccleſiaſtical likewiſe, but becauſe they did not live under the certain rules of ſome of thoſe orders, nor were votaries, they were, for diſtinction's ſake, called *ſecular*, of which ſort were biſhops, deans, and chapters, archdeacons, prebendaries, canons, parſons, vicars, and the like.

To give a general hiſtory of the ſeveral orders of the regular clergy, ſuch as monks, friars, canons, nuns, &c. with their particular origin, habit, and rules of each, would ſwell this work much beyond my preſent deſign, I ſhall therefore content myſelf with obſerving what relates to their diſſolution; in the courſe of which will be found the number of each order in this county, the amount of their revenues, and the time of their being ſuppreſſed, and I muſt refer the reader for the time of their foundation, and other local particulars, to the pariſhes in which their ſeveral houſes were ſituated.

There were in this county, of the Benedictine order, two abbies, three priories, and five nunneries; of the Cluniac, one priory; of the Ciſtercian, one abbey; of ſecular canons, five colleges; of regular canons, four abbies and five priories, one of which was Premonſtratenſian. Of the different ſorts of friars; of the Dominicans, one priory and one nunnery; of the Franciſcans, two priories; of the Trinitarians, one priory; of the Carmelites, three priories; of alien priories, four. Two commanderies of the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem, and fifteen hoſpitals, beſides ſeveral hermitages, chauntries, and free chapels. Theſe houſes were ſuppreſſed at ſeveral different times. The firſt of which, in this county (for I do not men-

tion thoſe which were united to other houſes) was in the reign of king Henry VI. a time when learning had began to revive, and great men grew fond of founding colleges and houſes of learning, which they got leave to endow with lands given to the maintenance of monks.[a]

In the 16th year of the above reign archbiſhop Chicheley founded All Souls college, in Oxford, and after the example of William Wickham, biſhop of Wincheſter, in his foundation of New-college in that univerſity, obtained leave to ſettle the revenues of ſeveral alien priories on it, among which was one at New Romney, in this county.

Several other colleges, both in Oxford and Cambridge, were founded and endowed in the ſame manner. And about the 21ſt year of king Henry VII. anno 1508, Margaret, counteſs of Richmond and Derby, began the foundation of St. John's-college, in Cambridge, which her executors, one of whom was John Fiſher, biſhop of Rocheſter, carried forward, and at his deſire the nunnery of Littlechurch, alias Higham, and an hoſpital of Regulars at Oſpringe in this county, were among others ſuppreſſed, and the revenues ſettled upon that college.

In the reign of king Henry VIII. cardinal Wolſey, being deſirous of founding two colleges, one at Ipſwich, and another at Oxford, and finding there were ſeveral mean monaſteries in England, where both the revenues and the number of religious were too ſmall to keep up regular diſcipline, church-ſervice, and hoſpitality, obtained leave of the pope, in the 16th year of that reign, anno 1524, for ſuppreſſing, with the king's good will, as many ſmall monaſteries as were needful to raiſe a revenue, not exceeding three thouſand ducats per annum. To this the king next year conſented, and above thirty religious houſes, moſt of

[a] Coke's Inſt. part i. p. 93. Tan. Mon. Præf. p. xxxiv.

them

them very ſmall, were ſuppreſſed for this purpoſe; among which were the priories of regular canons at Leſnes and Tunbridge in this county.

About the ſame time a bull was granted by the pope to cardinal Wolſey, for the ſuppreſſing monaſteries, where there were not above ſix monks, to the value of eight thouſand ducats per annum, for endowing Windſor and King's colleges, Cambridge, and two other bulls were likewiſe granted to cardinals Wolſey and Campejus, for ſuppreſſing thoſe where there were leſs than twelve monks, and annexing them to the greater monaſteries; another was likewiſe granted to the ſame cardinals, to enquire of abbies to be ſuppreſſed, in order to their being made cathedrals, but nothing appears to have been done in purſuance of theſe bulls.

Afterwards another bull was granted to the ſame two cardinals, with fuller powers relating to the new cathedrals, for that ſome of the dioceſes were thought too large, and wanted much to be reduced, as it was ſaid, that the biſhops might the better diſcharge their offices. The chief intent of cardinal Wolſey, and of moſt others, in ſuppreſſing theſe houſes, ſeems to have been the promoting of learning, though probably ſome, both then and afterwards, might encourage it with other views. Archbiſhop Cranmer, in particular, is ſaid to have been much for it, becauſe he could not carry on the reformation without it; and the increaſe of learning having made the corruptions of the church more viſible, many alſo might promote the diſſolution of them, as nurſeries of ſuperſtition. But many other cauſes which concurred to bring on their ruin; for many of the religious were certainly looſe and vicious, though not near ſo bad as the viſitors repreſented them, who, to make their court to their ſuperiors, and perhaps in conformity to private inſtructions, made uſe of every art to run them down, and ſet them in the moſt odious light. Lord Her-

bert tells us, that ſome ſocieties behaved ſo well, that their lives were not only exempt from notorious faults but their ſpare time was beſtowed in writing books, painting, carving, graving, and the like exerciſes, and the preamble to the firſt act of diſſolution ſets forth, that in the greater monaſteries religion was right well obſerved and kept up.

The caſting off the pope's ſupremacy was urged as another cauſe for the ſuppreſſion of theſe orders, who, notwithſtanding their ſubſcriptions, were generally thought to be againſt it in their hearts, and ready to join with any foreign power that ſhould invade the nation, whilſt the king was excommunicated by the pope. Their revenues not being employed according to the deſign and intent of the donors, was alſo alledged againſt them. The diſcoveries of ſeveral cheats in their images, miracles, and counterfeit reliques, is ſaid to have brought the monks everywhere into diſgrace, and to have contributed much towards their overthrow. Yet, notwithſtanding theſe ſpecious reaſons were, and might well be urged, it is very likely a principal inducement to their ruin was their large revenues, and the moveables in money, jewels, &c. which they were poſſeſſed of.

However, their ſuppreſſion being reſolved on, after ſome debate in council, how to proceed with theſe houſes, the king appointed commiſſioners to viſit them, and take the value of every religious houſe in the kingdom, their lands, and revenues; and the report of theſe viſitors was ſuch, that when a motion was made in parliament ſhortly after, that, in order to ſupport the king's ſtate and ſupply its wants, all the religious houſes, which were not above the clear value of two hundred pounds per annum, might be utterly ſuppreſſed, and the ſame, together with their lands, tenements, and other hereditaments, conferred on the crown, after ſome oppoſition in the houſe of commons, an act paſſed for that purpoſe, in the 27th year

year of king Henry VIII. which not only gave theſe to the king, but all ſuch as within one year next before had been ſurrendered to the king, or otherwiſe diſſolved.[a]

By this act, and the proceedings of the viſitors, about three hundred and eighty houſes were diſſolved, and their revenues of upwards of thirty thouſand pounds per annum came to the crown, beſides a hundred thouſand pounds in plate and jewels. As to the religious in them, though ſome were allowed to go to the greater monaſteries, yet it is ſaid that ten thouſand perſons were hereby ſent to ſeek their fortunes in the world, without any other allowance than forty ſhillings and a new gown to ſome few of them. Among the above was the Franciſcan priory at Greenwich, which was ſuppreſſed Auguſt 11, anno 26 Henry VIII.

After which the following houſes were ſuppreſſed in this county in the courſe of the next year:—Weſt Langdon abbey, Folkeſtone priory, Dover priory, Bilſington priory, Minſter in Shepey nunnery, Canterbury priory, St. Gregory's, Dover, St. Radigund's abbey, and the priories of Cumbwell, Horton, Hedcorne, Mottenden, Canterbury, Aylesford, Newenden, and Sandwich.

The ſuppreſſion of theſe houſes in different parts of England, occaſioned great diſcontents, fomented probably by the ſecular as well as regular clergy, which at length broke out into open rebellion, which being appeaſed, the king thought it the propereſt opportunity of putting his reſolution in practice, of ſuppreſſing the reſt of the monaſteries, and thereupon appointed a new viſitation of them, requiring the viſitors to examine whatever related either to their converſation, or their affection to himſelf and the ſupremacy, or to their cheats, impoſtures, or ſuperſtitions, or how they were affected during the late com-

[a] Tan. Mon. Præf. p. xxxv. xxxvi.

motions, and in ſhort to diſcover all that was amiſs in them.

This cauſed the greater abbies to be ſurrendered apace, for ſome of the religious having been faulty in the late rebellion, were liable to the king's diſpleaſure, and ſurrendered their houſes and poſſeſſions to ſave their lives. Some began to like the reformation, or, at leaſt, a ſecular life, or were perſuaded to it by promiſes of penſions and preferments. Others, ſeeing their diſſolution approaching, had ſo much embezzled their revenues, that they were ſcarce able to keep up their houſes. A great many monks were executed for having been in the rebellion; and many were prevailed on, by the threats and promiſes of the viſitors, to ſign their reſignations.[a]

In purſuance of this management the following houſes were ſurrendered in this county: viz. Canterbury priory, Boxley abbey, Canterbury, St. Sepulchre's nunnery, in the 29th year of that reign, and Faverſham, St. Auſtin's (Canterbury) abbies, and Malling nunnery, in the courſe of the next year.

Many petitions were made, even by thoſe that were for the reformation, that ſome of theſe houſes might be ſpared, but a reſolution being taken at court to extirpate them all, the petitions were rejected; and though there was no law to oblige the abbots to reſign, yet by means, ſome of which were not the moſt honeſt, they were all wrought upon to do it. And the next year, 31 Henry VIII. 1539, an act paſſed, by which all the religious houſes which ſince the former act had been ſuppreſſed or given up, or which after this act might be ſurrendered or given up, were confirmed to the king and his ſucceſſors. In which act is a clauſe reſpecting privileges and exemptions, which was not in the former one. This clauſe gave the houſes, lands, and hereditaments to the king and his ſucceſſors, in

[a] Burn's Eccleſ. Law, vol. ii. p. 462.

as

as full and as ample a manner as the governors of thoſe houſes held the ſame in right of their ſaid houſes; and that ſuch of their lands as before the diſſolution were diſcharged of tithes, ſhould continue in like manner diſcharged of the ſame afterwards.

By this act no houſes were ſuppreſſed, but all ſurrenders, which either were or ſhould be made, were confirmed. The mitred, or parliamentary abbots were, moſt of them in being and preſent at the paſſing of it, and were every one, ſhortly after, brought to ſurrender, except the abbots of Colcheſter, Glaſtonbury, and Reading, who could not be prevailed upon ſo to do, and were therefore accuſed of high treaſon, and executed, and their abbies ſeiſed, as forfeited to the king by their attainder.

The remainder of the religious houſes ſuppreſſed in this county was, in Canterbury, Chriſtchurch priory, Dartford nunnery, Leeds priory, and in Rocheſter, St. Andrew's priory.

The next year an act paſſed for the ſuppreſſing the order of the Knights of St. John of Jeruſalem, commonly called the Knights Hoſpitallers, in conſequence of which, among the reſt of their revenues in this county, there were two of their commanderies in it given up to the king, viz. the commandery or preceptory at Weſt Peckham, and the like at Swingfield.

By the ſuppreſſion of theſe greater houſes by the two above-mentioned acts, the king obtained a revenue of above one hundred thouſand pounds per annum, beſides a very large ſum in plate and jewels. However he was not in poſſeſſion of the whole of this income; for the religious of moſt of theſe houſes had ſomething given them for their preſent ſubſiſtence, and penſions aſſigned to them for life, or until they ſhould be preferred to ſome dignity or cure, of as great or greater value than their penſions, which were generally

generally proportioned according to their readineſs to promote the king's meaſures.

In the 37th year of king Henry VIII. the parliament, in order to ſupply the king's wants, granted to him all colleges, chantries, free chapels, hoſpitals, and guilds, ſome of which had been before ſurrendered. This act was made ſo general that even the colleges in the univerſities of Oxford and Cambridge, with thoſe of Eaton and Wincheſter, were not exempted in it; and upon the breaking up of the parliament in February, notice was ſent to both univerſities, that their colleges were at the king's diſpoſal, upon which they petitioned for mercy, which was ſoon obtained. But the commiſſioners, named in this act, for giving the king poſſeſſion of the colleges, &c. had not time to enter upon many of them before his death, which happened in the January following; ſo that moſt of them remained till the firſt year of king Edward VI. anno 1548, when they were granted by another act, in which the colleges of both univerſities, thoſe of Eaton and Wincheſter, were excepted, as ſome few others were to the king; they were conſequently moſt of them ſoon deſtroyed, to the number of ninety colleges, one hundred and ten hoſpitals, and two thouſand three hundred and ſeventy-four chantries and free chapels.

In this county were the following hoſpitals and colleges, in Canterbury, Eaſtbridge, Maynard's, and Northgate hoſpitals; in Chatham, St. Bartholomew's hoſpital; Harbledown, Hythe; in Sandwich, St. Bartholomew's hoſpital; in Canterbury, St. Laurence and St. Margaret's, poor prieſts, hoſpitals; in Dover St. Bartholomew and Maiſon Dieu hoſpitals; in Thanington, St. James's hoſpital; Sevenoke, and Strood hoſpitals, Bredgar, Maidſtone, Wingham, Cobham, and Wye ſecular colleges.

The

The following is a liſt of the chantries, free chapels, guilds, fraternities, &c. in this county;

Aſh, by Sandwich, chantry.
Bapchild, Radfield free chapel.
Chidingſtone chantry.
Cranbrook, Milkhouſe free chapel,
Herne, Virgin Mary, chantry.
Horton Kirkby, chantry.
Maidſtone Fraternity of Corpus Chriſti.
Malling, Eaſt, a free chapel, called Newhyth,
Orpington chapel, two chantries.
Orpington, Rufferth chantry, in Crofton.
Penſhurſt chantry.
Pepenbury chantry.
Petham, Depden chantry.
Reculver, Holy Trinity chantry.
Sandwich, in St. Peter's church, chantry.
Sevenoke chantry.
Sittingborne chantry, and
Teynham chantry.

The total *clear revenues* of the above monaſteries, and other religious foundations in this county, were about nine thouſand pounds per annum; and the number of houſes ſuppreſſed, from firſt to laſt, were three thouſand one hundred and eighty-two; and their clear yearly revenue about one hundred and forty thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-five pounds; the perſons they contained were eſtimated at forty-ſeven thouſand ſeven hundred and twenty-one.

As there were penſions paid to almoſt all thoſe of the greater monaſteries, the king did not immediately come into the full enjoyment of their whole revenues. However, out of what did come to him, he founded ſix new biſhoprics, and in eight other ſees he founded deans and chapters, by turning the priors and monks into deans and prebendaries; among which were thoſe of Canterbury and Rocheſter. He founded two colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, and ſeveral profeſſorſhips in both univerſities, and was a munificent benefactor to the city of London. Beſides which, he laid out great ſums in building and fortifying the forts and caſtles on the ſea-coaſt, and intended to have done more, but by the continual grants he made of theſe lands to his courtiers, and an unbounded

unbounded laviſhneſs in his expences, he ſoon waſted the whole of this immenſe revenue, and nothing farther was done by him.

It is much to be lamented, that, in the hurry of this diſſolution, great numbers of excellent books, and other manuſcripts, were made away with and deſtroyed, to the unſpeakable loſs of the learned world; for there was ſcarce any religious houſe that had not a library, and ſeveral of them had very good ones. From their chronicles, regiſters, and other books relating to their own houſes and eſtates, the hiſtory and antiquities of the nation in general, and of almoſt every particular part of it, might have been more fully diſcovered. The many good accounts of families, of the foundation, eſtabliſhment, and appropriation of pariſh churches, and the endowment of their vicarages; of the antient bounds of foreſts, counties, hundreds, and pariſhes; of the privileges, tenures, and rents of many manors and eſtates, and the like, which we meet with in ſuch of their books as are ſtill remaining, are ſufficient teſtimonies how great the advantage would have been had there been a greater number of them preſerved.

THE moſt authentic and moſt antient *record* in this kingdom, being the fountain from which every local hiſtory of it muſt derive its ſource, is DOMESDAY BOOK, which was begun by William the Conqueror, in the fifteenth year of his reign, anno 1080, and finiſhed in ſix years; for the univerſal eſtabliſhment of *tenures*, in which, and the article of *tallage*, its authority ſtands unqueſtioned.

The antient univerſal method of trial in our law courts is by jury, except when the evidence is *Domeſday*; when this happens, the barons of the exchequer, on proper writs being directed to them from the court before

before which the trial is to be, return thither that part of Domeſday which concerns the matter in queſtion, atteſted by the proper officers, which record alone determines the ſuit without any jury being had.

This manuſcript contains a *general ſurvey* of every part of England, except the three moſt northern counties, which were ſo ravaged by war, that no account could be taken of them. It was begun, in imitation of king Alfred's policy, who, when he divided his kingdom into counties, hundreds, and tithings, had an inquiſition taken and digeſted into a regiſter, called *Domeboc*, which was repoſited in the church of Wincheſter, and thence called *Codex Wintonienſis*.

This new ſurvey, therefore, was in imitation of king Alfred's, and was for ſome time kept in the ſame church. It ſeems to have been called by the ſame name, allowing for the corruption of language, which altered *Domeboc* into *Domeſday Book*. It was often termed by Latin Writers, *Liber Judicialis*, from its giving final judgment in the tenure of eſtates.[a]

This general ſurvey of the kingdom was taken before certain itinerant commiſſioners, conſiſting of the great men and biſhops, moſtly Normans, ſent from court for this purpoſe. Theſe inquiſitors, upon the oaths of the ſhrieves, the lords of each manor, the preſbyters of every church, the reves of every hundred, and ſix villeins of every village, were to enquire into the name of the place, who held it in king Edward the Confeſſor's time, who was the preſent poſſeſſor, how many hides or ſulings there were in the manor, how many carucates in demeſne, how many freemen, how many tenants in ſocage, how many in villenage, how much wood, meadow, and paſture, how many mills and fiſh-ponds, how much was added or taken away, what was the value, and how much

[a] Kennet's Paroch. Antiq. p. 63. Brady's Hiſt. Eng. p. 205.

much it was taxed for in king Edward's time, and what then, and what was yearly received from it at that time. This inquiſition was not finiſhed till the twentieth of the Conqueror's reign, being regiſtered in two books, called *Great* and *Little Domeſday*; theſe are now kept in the old chapter houſe, in the cloiſters, adjoining to Weſtminſter-abbey, under the care of the officers of the exchequer. The former is a large folio, finely written on three hundred and eighty-two double pages of vellum, in a ſmall, but plain character, and double columns. It contains thirty-one counties. The latter is in quarto, written on four hundred and fifty ſuch pages, in ſingle columns, and a fair but large hand, containing Eſſex, Norfolk, and Suffolk. That part of the greater volume, which relates to Kent, contains fourteen leaves, each having four columns, each column containing fifty lines; the copy of which, for this work, atteſted by the proper officer, at the uſual fee of four-pence a line, amounted to forty-ſix pounds thirteen ſhillings and four-pence.

The method of entering this ſurvey in Domeſday, ſo far as relates to this county, need not be particularized here. It may be ſeen by the ſeveral parts of the book, inſerted in the account of the pariſhes to which they relate; in moſt of which it will be obſerved how much, in the orthography of names of places, the Norman ſcribes were miſtaken, which is not to be wondered at, as they ſeldom copied the names from any other writing, but contented themſelves with taking it from the mouths of the Saxon informers, whoſe pronunciation could not be fit to dictate to foreigners, who, beſides, might purpoſely deprave and contract the Saxon words out of pure deteſtation of that language, which their maſter had ſo great a deſire to extirpate; nay, the difference of many of the names of places in this ancient record, from thoſe by which they are called at preſent, is ſo great,

great, that ſeveral of them cannot now, with any degree of certainty, be appealed to as the true and proper names of them without conjecture.[c]

The part of Domeſday, in which this county is deſcribed, is entitled CHENTH, and begins with the ſurvey of *Dovre*; then follow the ſeveral cuſtoms claimed by the king, the archbiſhop, and others over different parts and places in the county; the ſurvey of the lands of the *Canons of St. Martin's in Dovre*; the ſurvey of the city of Canterbury, and the ſeveral cuſtoms claimed by the archbiſhop and others therein; the ſurvey of the city of Rocheſter, and the remaining part of the lands belonging to St. Martin's, Dovre. Then follow the names of the ſeveral poſſeſſors of the land, deſcribed in this ſurvey, being in number thirteen.

1. King William.
2. Archbiſhop of Canterbury.
3. His monks and his tenants.
4. The biſhop of Rocheſter.
5. The biſhop of Baieux.
6. The abbot of Battel.
7. The abbot of St. Auſtin's.
8. The abbot of Ghent.
9. Hugh de Montfort.
10. Earl Euſtace.
11. Richard de Tunbridge.
12. Hamo Vicecomes.
13. Albert Capellanus.

Theſe twelve were the king's principal tenants *in capite*, who held immediately of him as of his crown. The king's poſſeſſions are next deſcribed, under the title of *terra regis*, or *antient demeſne*; under which are comprehended Dartford, Hawley, Aylesford, Milton, by Sittingborne, and Faverſham. Then follow the lands of the ſeveral tenants above-mentioned, in the order there placed under their ſeveral titles, among theſe the biſhop of Baieux's poſſeſſions were exceeding great, more than all the others put together. In the above ſurvey it is obſerved, there are many towns and villages quite unnoticed, the reaſon of which might be, that it was chiefly intended to give the king

[c] Kennet's Par. Antiq. p. 64.

a true

a true account of his own lands and demeſnes, and what were held by his tenants *in capite*; and many names omitted in it, were, no doubt, comprehended under the title of ſome larger manors, or were waſte and of no account at the time of the ſurvey.

Having now treated of thoſe matters, which concern the *General Hiſtory of this County*, as far as the compaſs of this work would allow of, I ſhall begin the deſcription of the ſeveral *Laths*, *Hundreds*, and *Pariſhes*, within it, taking them in geographical order, from the *weſtern* part of this county at the entrance of it at Deptford, and ſo proceeding on eaſtward till I come to the land's end.



A

# TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY,

OR

# *HISTORY*

OF THE SEVERAL

# LATHS AND HUNDREDS

IN THE

# *COUNTY OF KENT,*

AND OF EACH

PARTICULAR TOWN AND PARISH

WITHIN IT.



*The North east View of the Remains of Eltham Palace.*

# THE LATH OF SUTTON AT HONE

CONTAINS

THE FOLLOWING HUNDREDS:

I. BLACKHEATH.
II. BROMLEY AND BECKENHAM.
III. RUXLEY.
IV. LITTLE AND LESNES.
V. DARTFORD AND WILMINGTON.
VI. AXTANE.
VII. CODSHEATH.
VIII. WESTRAM AND EATONBRIDGE.
IX. SOMERDEN.

## THE HUNDRED OF BLACKHEATH.

THIS *hundred* is called in Domeſday the *hundred of Grenviz* (or *Greenwich*), which name it did not keep long, for in the 7th year of king Edward I. it was called by its preſent name, the king being then lord of it. It is divided into *two half hundreds*—the Upper and the Lower half hundred, each of which has a *conſtable*, who has juriſdiction over the whole of it; both are choſen at the court leet of the hundred.

IT CONTAINS THESE PARISHES:

1. DEPTFORD, as far as lies within this county.
2. GREENWICH.
3. CHARLTON with KIDBROOKE.
4. WOOLWICH.
5. ELTHAM with MOTTINGHAM.
6. LEE.
7. LEWISHAM. And part of CHESILHURST.

And all the churches of thoſe pariſhes, except Cheſilhurſt.

## DEPTFORD,

AS far as lies within this county, is within the *hundred of Blackheath*, and was ſo named from the deep ford here over the river Ravenſborne, before the bridge was erected. It was generally known in antient records by the name of *Deptford Strond*, alias *Weſt Greenwich*, a name which, in later times, became ſolely appropriated to the lower parts of it, on the banks of the Thames, the upper town retaining that of Deptford only.

It lies almoſt four miles diſtant from London, on the north-weſt verge of the county, on the bank of the Thames, and adjoining to the county of Surry, in which a ſmall part of it is ſituated. In the time of the Romans it was little, if at all, inhabited, the tide, moſt probably, flowing at times over the greateſt part of it; this might occaſion the Roman way to be made to the ſouthward, and not through it, in the direct line to London, as at preſent. But Deptford continued little more than a mean fiſhing village,[a] notwithſtanding its contiguity to this road, and its nearneſs to the metropolis till king Henry VIII. firſt created a ſtore-houſe, and made the royal dock here, from which time it has continued to increaſe both in ſize and inhabitants, ſo that it is now a large and populous town, though it has no market, being divided into Upper and Lower Deptford, containing in the

[a] Rot. Excheq. anno 20 Edw. III. No. 66.

whole

whole about three thouſand five hundred houſes and fifteen thouſand inhabitants. Great part of it, as well as its environs, is inhabited by people of good faſhion and credit. Since the great increaſe of trade, its vicinity to London, and its ſituation on the bank of the Thames, has been the occaſion of ſeveral conſiderable *manufactories* being eſtabliſhed in it, which are moſtly ſituated in the Lower town, near the river. Theſe, together with the royal and other docks, the buſineſs of government attendant on them, and that of the ſhipping in general, continually carrying on, make it a place of much reſort, traffic, and wealth.

However, the greateſt ſupport and conſequence of Deptford certainly ariſes from the *royal dock*, where at firſt the whole of the royal navy was, for ſome time after it was eſtabliſhed, built and repaired, until it was found more convenient to build the larger ſhips at Woolwich and other places, where there is greater depth of water. Notwithſtanding which this yard has been from time to time enlarged to more than double its original dimenſions, and great numbers of hands are conſtantly employed in the different branches of the ſervice here.

It has a wet dock of two acres for ſhips, and another of an acre and a half, with vaſt quantities of timber and other ſtores, and extenſive buildings, as ſtorehouſes and other offices for the uſe of the place, and handſome houſes for thoſe officers who are obliged to live upon the ſpot. There is no particular commiſſioner appointed for this yard, but it is under the immediate inſpection of the navy board, which has under it in reſidence here a clerk of the cheque and ſurvey, a ſtore-keeper, a maſter ſhipwright, or builder, and other officers, clerks, and inferior ſervants, employed in their reſpective ſtations in it. A geometrical plan and elevation of the dock-yard, with part of the town, was publiſhed by T. Milton, 1753. The *victualling-office* was, by accident, burnt down in 1749, and a great

quantity of proviſions and other ſtores conſumed. This building was intended to ſupply the place of the old victualling-office on Tower-hill, the leaſe whereof was then almoſt expired.

Beſides the royal dock there are many private ones in this pariſh and adjoining to it, ſome of which, from their extent, the many ſhips continually repairing and building in them, and the vaſt ſtores of timber, tackling, and other neceſſaries laid up there, would be eſteemed in any other country ſufficient for the navy of a kingdom; though they are here fully employed by the merchants and traders of Great-Britain; and Stow, in his Survey of London, *ſays*, that two hundred and fifty acres of meadow, lying in Deptford, next the river Thames, by the dock-yard, were purchaſed about 1656, by Robert Stanton, Samuel Moyer, and Charles Harris, and others, for making harbours and moles for the riding of three hundred ſail of ſhips, without the uſe of anchor and cable; and where many conveniences were to be made for building, repairing, and careening ſhips; towards which much had been expended in digging one of the moles, and cuts towards the other, and contracts made, for proviſions and workmanſhip, to a great value. This was confirmed by the parliament in the ſame year.[a]

What is called the *Redhouſe*, is a place ſituated a little to the north-weſt of Deptford, and was a noted collection of warehouſes and ſtorehouſes, built of red bricks, and from that circumſtance had its name. It contained ſeveral ſorts of merchandizes, as hemp, flax, pitch, tar, and other commodities of a ſimilar kind; which were all conſumed by an accidental fire in 1639. The loſs was incredible, for the materials were ſo combuſtible, that nothing could be ſaved,

[a] Vol. II. Append. p. 89.

nor

nor could the flames be extinguiſhed till they had nothing left to prey upon.

In the lower part of Deptford are the two churches of St. Nicholas and St. Paul, as is the ſcite of the antient manſion of Saye's-court, long ſince demoliſhed, the preſent building on it being made uſe of, as the pariſh workhouſe of St. Nicholas, the only remains of its former ſtate being two brick piers of a large gateway. Near it is ſtill remaining the holly hedge mentioned by Evelyn in his Sylva. The lands in this part of the pariſh are very rich and fertile, and are let at high rents to gardeners for the uſe of the public markets.

The high road from London to Dover croſſes this pariſh through the town of Upper Deptford, at the Broadway, ſouthward of which the lands riſe to the hills, being in general very poor and barren. Hence the pariſh extends farther ſouthward to Brockley-farm, adjoining to Lewiſham, near which it is much covered with coppice wood.

At New Croſs, which is now eſteemed as the *weſtern boundary* of this county adjoining to Surry, though great part of the pariſh of St. Paul, Deptford, extends into the latter, the great London road divides, the northern one leading through Upper Deptford and the ſouthern one over Loampit-hill, towards Lewiſham; and here it muſt be obſerved that the county of Kent formerly extended much farther to the weſtward than it does at preſent, having had the whole of what is now contained in St. Paul's pariſh formerly within its bounds, though now the adjoining county of Surry claims great part of it, for the manor and ſeat of Hatcham, belonging to the haberdaſhers company within this pariſh, though now eſteemed to be within that county, is by moſt ſuppoſed to have been formerly within the county of Kent, however the boundaries have been ſince altered, for the name of this place ſhews its ſituation cloſe to the

confines of both counties, the ſame as Kent-hatch, in Weſteram, points out its ſituation at the very outſide of this county; and ſeveral inquiſitions, taken ſince the time of king Henry III. have found Hatcham to be in Kent. The manor of Bredinghurſt, at Peckham-rye, near Camberwell, though now held to be in Surry, was likewiſe formerly held to be in this county. The antient roll of the barony of Maminot, before cited, mentions it as lying within it; and part of the manor of Deptford Strond, now accounted wholly within Surry, was ſo lately as king Henry VIII.'s reign, deſcribed as lying within the county of Kent. The reception of priſoners from one county to the other, for a long ſpace of time, at New-croſs, has moſt probably been the occaſion of fixing the boundaries between them at this place; but this is certainly, however now fixed by cuſtom, erroneous, for of right thoſe of this county ſhould extend to a ſmall bridge beyond Hatcham, in the road to London, near the way to Bredinghurſt, which, by an inquiſition, taken in the ſeventh year of king Richard II. was then reckoned to be in Kent.[a]

In the town of Upper Deptford there is a handſome ſtone bridge over the river Ravenſborne (which here empties itſelf into the Thames). It was ſome years ago made much more commodious for paſſengers at the expence of the public. Here was formerly a wooden bridge only, which was rebuilt at the ſole coſt of king Charles I. in 1628; but in former times it had been repaired at the charge of the adjacent country, as appears by a record in the Tower, in which it is ſaid, that the reparation of it belonged to the inhabitants of the hundred of Blackheath, and not to thoſe of Eltham, Modingham, and Woolwich.[b] Over this bridge the high road leads up Deptford-hill

[a] Kent. Inquiſ. 7. Rich. II. No. 30. Poſt. Mort. E. fil. Tho. Dolfil. Phil, Ibid. [b] Lamb. Per. p. 469. Lel. Itin. p. 15, 94.

to

to Blackheath in its way to Dover, at the land's end, on the north ſide of the above hill are very extenſive gravel and ſand pits, which being ſo near the metropolis, are productive of great profit; among them were diſcovered, ſome years ago, ſome long ſubterraneous paſſages, ſince called *The Caverns*, near which a houſe of public entertainment has been built, to which the curious frequently reſort to ſee them.

In 1690, a *Janus's head* was found in the road to New Croſs, near St. Thomas's watering place, one ſide of which repreſented the countenance of a man, bearded, with the horns and ears of a ram, a jewel or ornament hanging down near them on each ſide his head, which was crowned with laurel; on the oppoſite ſide was the countenance of a young woman, in antient head attire, which at the ſame time that it covered the head, projected from it. It was entire, and ſeemed formerly to have been fixed to a ſquare column, or to a *terminus*. It was a foot and a half high. It afterwards was depoſited in the collection of the learned and curious Dr. Woodward. Below is the figure of it.—See Horſley, Brit. Rom. p. 343.



OUR BOTANISTS have taken notice of the *following rare plants*,, growing in and about this place:

Sinum majus anguſti folium, *leſſer water parſnip.*
Garyophyllus pratenſis, *the Deptford or wild creeping pink.*
Engliſh cudweed.
Tragopogon luteum, *yellow goatſbeard.*
Bugloſſum luteum, lang de beefe, *in Latin, lingua bovis et bugloſſum luteum, hieracio cognatum et bugloſſa ſylveſtris, or wild bugloſs.*
Cicutaria paluſtris, *wild water hemlock.*[a]
Blattaria, *moth mullin*; *variat flore albo*; *growing both here and at Greenwich.*
Dipſacus minor ſive virga paſtoris, *ſhepherd's-rod.*
Nummularia, *money wort*; *flore purpuraſcente.*[b]

To this part of Kent, ſo fruitful to the herbaliſt, that delight and ornament of our nation, Mr. Cowley, before he removed to Chertſey, frequently retired; where every field and wood could ſhew him the real figures of which he read, and from which he compoſed his books of plants, herbs, and flowers; the more happy ſituation to him, as it was near Mr. John Evelyn, of Saye's-court, who was ever forward to communicate his art and knowledge for the benefit of others.

DEPTFORD was given by William the Conqueror to Gilbert de Magminot, one of his favourites,[c] together with many other lands, in different counties, conſiſting of twenty-four knights fees, to hold of the caſtle of Dover *in capite* by barony, by the performance of certain ſervices for the defence of it, and theſe together made up the *barony of Magminot*.

Gilbert de Magminot (or Maminot, as this name was afterwards more frequently ſpelt) fixed the ſcite of

[a] Johnſon's Gerarde's Herb. p. 257, 594, 596, 644, 736, 798, 1064, and Merrett's Pinax. p. 22.
[b] Merrett's Pinax. p. 16, 33. [c] Philipot, p. 160.

his

his *barony* here, which therefore was afterwards eſteemed *caput baroniæ*, or head of the barony, and he erected a *caſtle* on it, as was uſual in thoſe days, every part of which has been long ſince buried in its own ruins; though ſome remains of ſtony foundations ſeem to point out the ſituation of it, near Saye's-court, in Bromfield, on the bank of the Thames, near the maſt dock. His grandſon, Wakelin, died without iſſue, in the third year of king Richard I. having been a good benefactor to the monks of Bermondſey, to whom, in the year 1157, he gave ten ſhillings rent, out of the mill of Deptford. On his death his ſiſter Alice became his coheir, and brought this place, with much other inheritance, to her huſband Geoffrey, ſecond ſon of William de Saye,[d] who granted this *manor of Weſt Greenwich* (as it was then called) with the advowſon of the church and its appurtenances to the Knights Templars, in pure and perpetual alms.

His ſon Geoffrey regained the poſſeſſion of it by giving the Knights Templars that of Sadleſcombe, in Suſſex, for it. He ratified to the canons of Begham the lands of Brocele, which were part of his barony, and the church of St. Nicholas, at Greenwich, which his father had given to them. Geoffrey de Saye, laſt mentioned, being in arms againſt king John, with others of the barons, in the 17th year of that reign, his lands and fees, lying in Kent and elſewhere, were given to Peter de Crohun, though after the death of the king he was taken into favour, and his lands were reſtored in the 8th year of king Henry III.[e]

William his ſon ſucceeded him, and died anno 56 Henry III. holding this manor *in capite* by barony, and the repair of a houſe in Dover-caſtle, called, from its

[d] Pedigree of Magminot, atteſted by Camden, Clar. and St. George, Norry. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 511, 619. Dugd. Monaſt. p. 640, et ſeq.

[e] Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 555. Reg. Roff. p. 378, et ſeq. Dug. Bar. vol. i. p. 511.

poſſeſſors,

poſſeſſors, Saye's-tower.[a] His ſon of the ſame name, accounted at the Exchequer for twenty-ſeven fees of the honour of Magminot; that is, twenty-ſix of the old feoffment and one of the new, which ſhews the large extent of his poſſeſſions. He died anno 23 king Edward I. poſſeſſed of this manor, leaving Geoffrey his ſon and heir,[b] who married Idonea, daughter of William de Leyborne (who ſurvived him) and died poſſeſſed of it, in the 15th of king Edward II. leaving Geoffrey de Saye, his ſon, who, in the 8th of king Edward III. obtained the king's charter for *free warren* for all his demean lands in his lordſhips of Greenwich, Deptford, &c. with the view of frankpledge and other privileges, and died in the 33d year of it, leaving William his ſon and heir, and Maud his wife, ſurviving, (daughter of Guy de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick) and three daughters, who afterwards became their brother's heirs, as will be further mentioned.

William de Saye died in the 49th of king Edward III. leaving John his ſon and heir, who died in his minority, and in ward to the king, in the 6th year of king Richard II. being then poſſeſſed of this manor.[b] Upon which Elizabeth his ſiſter became his heireſs, who married firſt Sir John de Falleſley, who had poſſeſſion granted of the lands of her inheritance, but he dying ſoon after, ſhe married Sir William Heron, knight.

This family of Saye, from their long poſſeſſion of this place, fixed the name of Sayes-court on the manſion or ſcite of this manor, which it ſtill retains. They bore for their coat armour, *Quarterly or and gules*, which bearing came to them from the Magminots; and again from the Sayes to the Peckhams, Parrocks, and St. Nicholas's, but theſe bore it only in chief.[c]

Sir William Heron above mentioned poſſeſſed this manor in right of his wife, anno 19 Richard II. toge-

[a] Rot. Eſch. an. 56 Hen. III. No. 37, p. 12.

[b] Rot. Eſch. cor. ann.

[c] Camb. Rem. p. 215.

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ther with her, by the name of Elizabeth lady Saye, levied a fine of it, with all other their manors and lands in Kent, to the uſe of them and the heirs male of their bodies; remainder to her own right heirs. Four years after which ſhe died, *ſ. p.* Upon which this manor came to Sir William Heron in her right, and he died poſſeſſed of it in the 6th year of king Henry IV. *ſ. p.* likewiſe, Sir John[e] ſon of his brother Sir John Heron, being his next heir, all which was found by inquiſition taken here at Deptford, and that it was held *in capite*, and conſiſted of one capital meſſuage here and two hundred and twenty-five acres of land, and of rents of aſſize of free tenements ſeven pounds eight ſhillings and two leets, and it was likewiſe found by an inquiſition, taken after her death, that ſhe died, *ſ. p.* and that Sir William de Clinton, ſon of Idonea, ſiſter of William de Saye laſt mentioned; Mary wife of Otho de Worthington, and daughter of Thomas de Aldon, by Elizabeth, another ſiſter of the ſaid William; and Maud, her ſiſter; and Roger de Fiennes, ſon of William by Joane, another ſiſter, who afterwards had Stephen de Valoines; were her heirs and next of kin. They moſt probably joined in the ſale of it, for in the 3d year of Henry V. it was found,[f] that Sir John Philip and Alice his wife held the reverſion of this manor, and that Sir William Philip was his brother and next heir.

William de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, at the time of his death, in the 28th year of Henry VI. was poſſeſſed of the manor of Weſt Greenwich, leaving John his ſon,[g] who, in the 3d year of king Edward IV. was reſtored to the title of the Duke of Suffolk, void by his father's attainder. His eldeſt ſon John ſeems to have had the property of this manor veſted in him during the life time of his father, and was, by a ſpecial char-

[e] Rot. Eſch. ejus ann. His will is in Reg. Arund. at Lambeth.

[f] Rot. Eſch. anno 6 Hen. V.

[g] Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 189. and Rot. Eſch. ejus ann.

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ter, in the 7th year of king Edward IV. in regard of his nearneſs of blood to that king, created Earl of Lincoln, after which, being highly favoured by king Richard III, and being ſo eminent a branch of the houſe of York, he uſed his utmoſt endeavours to oppoſe the earl of Richmond's attaining the crown. To which end, raiſing an armed power, he marched towards Newark-upon-Trent, and at Stoke, near that place, being met by king Henry's forces, after a ſharp diſpute, anno 2d king Henry VII. his whole army was routed, and he himſelf ſlain there. This manor, thus coming to the crown, did not remain long there, for king Henry next year granted it to Oliver St. John, who died poſſeſſed of it in the 14th year of that reign,[a] leaving the inheritance of it by his will, anno 11 Henry VII.[b] to his ſon, John St. John, who was likewiſe found to own it at his death, in the 4th year of king Henry VIII.[c] Before the 29th year of which reign, this manor ſeems again to have returned to the crown, when, as appears by a deed in the augmentation-office, it was ſtiled the king's *manor of Saye's-court*, alias *Weſt Greenwich*, and is mentioned in it, together with his *manor and ville of Deptford Strond*, by which it appears that there were then *two diſtinct manors*, ſo named as above. As to the latter, I find that Roger Mortimer, earl of March, who was ſlain in Ireland, in the 22d of king Richard II. was found to die poſſeſſed of a certain ſcite, called Le Strond, in Greenwich, and ſeventy-three acres of land in Deptford Strond.[d] His ſon Edmund, the laſt earl of March, died anno 3 Henry VI. poſſeſſed of this ſcite, called his manor of Weſt Greenwich, alias the Strond.[e] On his death, without iſſue, Richard duke of York, ſon of Anne his ſiſter, was found by inquiſition to be his next heir. He died anno 3 Edward IV. being poſſeſſed of

[a] Rot. Eſch
[b] Coll. Peer. vol. vi. p. 274.
[c] Rot. Eſch. ejus ann. Petit's Book of Aids, manuſcript.
[d] Rot. Eſch. ejus ann.
[e] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 151.

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the meſſuage and premiſes of Deptford Strond,[f] and was ſucceeded in it by his ſon Edward, earl of March, afterwards king Edward IV. ſo that it became veſted in the crown. It was then eſteemed to lie partly within this county, and the remainder of it in that of Surry, within the pariſhes of Reddriff and Camberwell, but in queen Mary's reign, 1555, it appears to have been eſteemed as ſituated wholly in thoſe pariſhes within the county of Surry, owing probably to the change made in the boundaries of the two counties, and as ſuch will excuſe any farther notice of it in this place, excepting that it is at preſent ſo called, and is now the property of the reverend Mr. Hambly.

But the *manor of Saye's-court*, alias *Weſt Greenwich*, ſituated within this pariſh of Deptford and county of Kent, notwithſtanding the ſcite of it, called Saye's-court, was demiſed away, as will be farther mentioned, appears to have remained in the hands of the crown from the above time during the greateſt part of king James I.'s reign, and to have continued ſo at the death of king Charles I. in 1648.

The *manſion of Saye's-court* appears to have been granted before this, at the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, for a term to Sir Richard Browne, who died poſſeſſed of it in 1604, and lies buried in this church with his wife, dame Johanna Vigors, of Langham, in Eſſex. He was a younger ſon of an antient family at Hitchin, in Hertfordſhire, ſeated at Horſeley, in Eſſex, and being taken into the ſervice of the crown by Robert Dudley, the great earl of Leiceſter, went governor of the United Netherlands, and was afterwards, by queen Elizabeth, made clerk of the green cloth, in which he contiuued under king James. He left a ſon, Chriſtopher Browne, eſq. who died in 1645, and lies buried in this church, with Thomaſin his wife, daughter of Benjamin Gonſon, of Much Baddow, in

[f] Rot. Eſch. ejus ann.

Eſſex.

Eſſex. Their only ſon and heir was Sir Rich. Browne, gentleman of the privy-chamber to king Charles I. and clerk of the council; and reſident from king Charles I. and II. at the court of France, till the Reſtoration. He had been created a *baronet* in 1649, and dying in 1683, was buried in this church-yard, cloſe to the wall of the church, on the other ſide of which his father lies. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Prettiman, of Driffield, in Glouceſterſhire, who lies buried by him. By her he had an only daughter and heir, Mary, as will be farther mentioned below.[a]

The arms on Sir Richard Browne's monument, who died in 1605, are *Quarterly*, firſt and fourth, *azure a griffin paſſant or a chief of the ſecond*; ſecond and third, *or a chief ſable*. But his grandſon, Sir Rich. Browne, bt. appears to have had an alteration granted to his arms; for in the Britiſh muſeum[b] is a warrant of Charles II. given at Caſtle Elizabeth, in the iſle of Jerſey (Jan. 6, 1649) to Sir Edward Walker, garter, to prepare a grant of an additional coat of arms, by way of augmentation, for Sir Richard Browne, bart. viz. *Or, a chief ſable, and a canton ermine*, to be borne before his paternal coat. This canton was afterwards omitted by patent, and Sir E. Walker certified (July 24, 1663) that the above augmentation without the canton, was not, to his knowledge, borne by any family, nor extant in any book of viſitation. After which he bore for his arms, *Quarterly*, firſt, *the above augmentation*; ſecondly, *Browne*; third, *argent, a fret gules*; fourth, *quarterly indented or and gules, a creſcent*, for difference.

After the death of king Charles I. the powers then in being paſſed an ordinance to veſt the royal eſtates in truſtees, in order to their being ſurveyed and ſold to ſupply the neceſſities of the ſtate; by which ſurvey it appeared that the quit-rents due to the lord of this ma-

[a] See a further account of Sir Richard Browne, in Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. i. faſti, p. 241.

[b] Among Harleian MSS. No. 1172, 122, f. 74.

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nor of Saye's-court and Deptford, and le Strond, alias Weſt Greenwich, from the freeholders in free ſocage tenure, amounted to one hundred and eighteen ſhillings one penny halfpenny yearly, and that the court baron and court leets, &c. were valued at ſixty ſhillings. And that James I. in conſideration of the ſervices done by Chriſtopher Browne, gent. above mentioned, as well as of the charges he had been at in repairing the manſion-houſe of Saye's-court, by letters patent, in his 8th year, had granted to him that houſe, lying in Bromefield, in Deptford, with the orchards, gardens, and cloſes, then in his poſſeſſion, and ſufficient hay and paſture for the keeping, feeding, and paſturing twelve kine, one bull, and two horſes, in winter and ſummer, upon the grounds at Sayes-court, for forty years, without any rent, and that king Charles had directed his privy-ſeal to the truſtees of his ſon Charles, prince of Wales, in conſequence of which they granted, in his 10th year, the premiſes to him for twenty-four years, to commence from the year 1651 (being the expiration of the former leaſe). The premiſes were reported then to be in the poſſeſſion of William Prettiman, gent. executor of Chriſtopher, and guardian of Richard Browne, one of his grandchildren, to whom, by his will, he had given his intereſt in them;[c] that the yearly value was one hundred and ſeven pounds, but that there were yearly repriſes out of them to the vicar of Deptford, in conſiderations of tithes, twelve pounds, and four loads of hay, valued together at ſix pounds. That he was likewiſe tenant to all the demeſne lands, by leaſe from the commiſſioners of the public revenue, amounting to about one hundred and ſixty-four acres, at the yearly rent of four hundred and twenty-four pounds eleven ſhillings and ſeven pence three farthings.

After this the manor, with its appurtenances, and other premiſes in Greenwich and Deptford, were ſold

[c] Augment. Off. Parl. Surveys.

by the truſtees to John Bachſted, Ralph Cobbet, and others; and the manor houſe to William Somerfield.[a] In which ſtate they continued till the reſtoration of king Charles II. in 1660, when the manor and thoſe demeſnes, undemiſed by the crown, returned to the royal revenue, part of which, the manor itſelf, continues at this time. A court leet and court baron is ſtill held for it.

But Saye's-court, by virtue of the above mentioned leaſes, returned to the heir of Mr. Chriſtopher Browne,[b] in the perſon of Sir Richard Browne, bart. his only ſon, whoſe ſole daughter and heir Mary having, in 1647, married John Evelyn, eſq. before mentioned, and brought him her father's intereſt in this ſeat as part of her inheritance. King Charles II.[c] under his great ſeal, in his 15th year, granted to the above mentioned John Evelyn his capital meſſuage, or ſcite of the manor of Saye's-court, with its appurtenances in Deptford, and lands belonging to it, for the term of ninety-nine years, at the yearly rent of twenty two ſhillings and ſixpence. This Mr. John Evelyn, a moſt ingenious and polite gentleman, and well verſed in uſeful learning,[d] was the ſecond ſon of Richard Evelyn, eſq. of Wotton, in Surry, and ſucceeded as heir to his elder brother George, who died without iſſue, to the ſeat and eſtate at Wotton, which he has ever ſince continued the family ſeat of his deſcendants. He died at London, in 1706, and was interred at Wotton, in the chancel there; leaving ſurviving one ſon John, and a daughter, Suſan, married to William Draper, eſq. of Adgecourt, in Surry.

This *family of Evelyn* came originally from Evelyn, near Tower-caſtle, in Shropſhire, whence they came into Surry, ſome ages ſince, along with the On-

[a] Augment. Off. Roll of Par. H. 12.

[b] See the act of 10 Geo. I.

[c] Private act of 10 Geo. I.

[d] See an account of him in Wood's Ath. Ox. v. ii. p. 941.

ſlows

ſlows and Hattons, from places and ſeats of thoſe names. There are ſome of this name both in France and Italy, written Ivelyn and Avelyn, and in old deeds Avelyn, alias Evelyn. One of this name was taken priſoner at the battle of Agincourt.

John Evelyn, eſq. only remaining ſon of John, as above mentioned, was the ingenious author of the Sylva and ſeveral other books,[e] and having married Martha, daughter and coheir of Richard Spencer, eſq. died in his father's life time, in 1699, leaving one ſon John, and a daughter Elizabeth, married to the honourable Simon Harcourt.[f] John Evelyn, laſt mentioned, by his grandfather's will, became poſſeſſed, on his death, in 1706, of both the terms in Sayes-court, and the other premiſes in Deptford, granted by king Charles II. In July 1713, he was created a baronet, and was fellow of the Royal Society, of which his grandfather had been a principal promoter and benefactor.

King George I. in his 10th year, granted the freehold of this eſtate (an act of parliament having paſſed for that purpoſe) to Francis earl of Godolphin, and Hugh viſc. Falmouth, in truſt for Sir John Evelyn and his heirs for ever, on paying the yearly rent of 1l. 2s. 6d. as a quit rent, and a valuable conſideration beſides to the crown for them. He married Anne, ſiſter of Hugh, late viſcount Falmouth, and dying in 1763, left the poſſeſſion of Saye's-court to his ſon Sir John Evelyn, bart. who died in 1767, on which this eſtate deſcended to his only ſon, Sir Frederick Evelyn, bart. of Wotton, in Surry, the *preſent poſſeſſor* of it.[g] The Evelyns bear for their coat armour, *Azure, a griffin paſſant and chief or.* In this houſe Peter the Great, czar of Muſcovy, reſided for ſome time in 1698, when he, in this yard, completed his ſkill and knowledge in naval architecture.

[e] See an account of him in Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. ii. p. 1079.
[f] Biog. Brit. vol. iii. p. 1849.
[g] Camd. Brit. vol. i. p. 649. Collins's Bar. vol. v. p. 146.

Brockley is a place ſituated partly in this pariſh and partly in Lewiſham. It was once accounted a manor, and was granted, with its appurtenances, by the laſt Wakelin de Maminot, about the latter end of king Henry II.'s reign, to Michael de Turnham, to hold by the yearly rent of twelve pence, in lieu of all ſervice, for which grant Michael became his feudatory tenant, and paid him forty ſhillings. Michael de Turnham afterwards ſold his land of Brocele, as his *free gavilkinde* and *ſtockinkinde*, to the counteſs Juliana, wife of Wakelin above mentioned, that ſhe might found a religious houſe here, Stephen de Turnham, his nephew, conſenting to it. The religious of the Premonſtratenſian order, who were firſt ſettled at Ottham, in Suſſex, by Ralph de Dene, finding that place very inconvenient, reſolved to quit it for one more ſuitable, and in all likelihood it was theſe to whom the counteſs Juliana and Michael de Turnham gave this place, in pure and perpetual alms, for an habitation: which gift was confirmed by Jeffry de Say, the land being part of his barony. But they did not remain long here, for Robert de Turnham, nephew of Michael, gave them an eſtate at Begham, in Suſſex, to which they quickly removed, with the conſent of Ela de Sackville, daughter of Ralph de Dene, and he confirmed to them his land here at Brockley, in pure and perpetual alms, to hold of Jeffry de Saye and his heirs, paying him the accuſtomed rent in lieu of all ſervice and ſecular exaction; which gift was confirmed by his brother, Stephen de Thurnham. King John, in his 9th year, confirmed the land of Brokele to the abbot and convent of Begham. King Edward III. in his 2d year, granted to them free warren in their lands at Brokele.

This eſtate remained with them till the diſſolution of their abbey, in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. when, being one of thoſe ſmaller monaſteries, which cardinal Wolſey

Wolſey then obtained of the king, by his letters patent that year, for the endowment of his colleges,[a] it was ſettled by him on his new foundation, called Cardinals-college, in Oxford, where it ſtaid only four years, when the cardinal being caſt in a *præmunire*, in 1529, all the eſtates of this foundation were forfeited to the king, and continned in the hands of the crown till 1532, excepting ſuch as were begged from time to time by the hungry courtiers, which were not a few.[b]

That part of this eſtate which lies in Lewiſham is now called Foreſt place, alias Brockley-farm; a farther account of which will be given under the deſcription of that pariſh. The other part, ſituated in the pariſh of Deptford, was granted by queen Elizabeth, by letters patent, in her 10th year, by the deſcription of the ſcite and capital meſſuage of the manor of Brockhill to Philip Conway. This is now called Hither or Upper Brockley-farm, and is ſituated near New-croſs, in the pariſh of St. Paul's, Deptford. It was for ſome generations in the family of Wickham, of Garſington, in Oxfordſhire, who were poſſeſſed of a conſiderable eſtate beſides, both in this pariſh and that of St. Nicholas, Deptford; all which, by two female coheirs of that name, paſſed lately in marriage to Thomas Drake Tyrwhitt, eſq. and the reverend doctor John Drake, the two younger ſons of William Drake, eſq. late of Amerſham, in the county of Bucks, who in the right of their reſpective wives are *now poſſeſſed* of them.

There is an old houſe in Deptford, commonly called the Moated-place or Stone-houſe, or king John's-houſe, from that king's having been ſuppoſed to be the builder of it, but with what truth I know not; however, it has been at ſeveral times the reſidence of the kings of England. King Edward III. reſided frequent-

[a] Dugd. Monaſt. vol. ii. p. 638, 640. Rot. Cart. ejuſd. anni, No. 1. Tan. Mon. p. 561. [b] Fiddes's Wolſey, p. 306.

ly here; and king Henry IV. is ſaid to have reſided here whilſt his leproſy was curing.[a] This houſe remained in the crown at the death of king Charles I. in 1648; after whoſe death it came under the management of the truſtees appointed by parliament in 1649, for the ſale of the late king's lands, and was by their ſurveyor certified to be within the county of Surry,[b] and as ſuch will excuſe further notice of it.

In the 38th year of king Henry VIII. Thomas Baſſingburne held *in capite* a meſſuage and dovecote, called Skinners'-place, with its appurtenances, in the pariſh of Deptford Strond, alias Weſt Greenwich, being parcel of the poſſeſſions of Thomas Becket's hoſpital, within the borough of Southwark. Richard Stoneley afterwards held Skinners'-place, but in the 10th year of queen Elizabeth, the lady Anne Parry was in poſſeſſion of it.

In the 3d of king Edward VI. there was a decree in the court of augmentation concerning *the hermitage* in Deptford, which, I find was in being in the 4th year of king Henry IV.[d] King Edward VI. in his 6th year, granted to Edward lord Clinton and Saye, lands in this pariſh, parcel of the guild of our lady of Rounceval.[e]

Here are *two hoſpitals* belonging to the corporation of the Trinity-houſe of Deptford Strond, in which the men have an allowance of twenty ſhillings per week, and the women ſixteen. Theſe buildings were erected at two different times; the old part, which is ſituated near the church, contains twenty-one houſes, and the new, which fronts the ſtreet, in length, contains thirty-eight. The latter, called Trinity-hoſpital, is much the finer edifice, and has large gardens belonging to it, notwithſtanding which the other has

[a] Rymer's Fœd. vol. v. p. 68, 638.
[b] Augm. Off. Parl. Surveys.
[c] Rot. Eſch. an. 10 Eliz.
[d] Rym. Fœd. vol. viii. p. 296.
[e] Augm. Off. Box, G. 34.

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the preference, on account of its antiquity, and the meetings of the corporation, which the maſter and brethren, hold their by there charter.

Sir Richard Browne, bart. of Saye's-court, elder brother and maſter, in the year 1672, gave the inheritance of the land on which theſe alms houſes are built.[f] Captain Richard Maples, who died commander of a ſhip in the Eaſt Indies, in 1680, left to the Trinity-houſe thirteen hundred pounds, with which part of theſe alms-houſes were built.

*The Society of the Trinity-houſe* was founded in the reign of king Henry VIII. by Sir Thomas Spert, commandant of the great ſhip Henry, *Grace de Dieu*, and comptroller of the navy, for the increaſe and encouragement of navigation, for the good government of the ſeamen, and the better ſecurity of merchant ſhips on our coaſts. It was incorporated anno 4th king Henry VIII. who confirmed to them not only the antient rights and privileges of the *company of mariners of England*, but their ſeveral poſſeſſions at Deptford, which, together with the grants of queen Elizabeth and king Charles II. were confirmed by letters patent of the 1ſt of king James II. by their firſt name of, *The Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants of the guild or fraternity of the moſt glorious and undivided Trinity, and of St. Clement, in the pariſh of Deptford Strond, in the county of Kent.*

The corporation is governed by a maſter, four wardens, and eighteen more elder brethren, but the inferior members of the fraternity, named the *younger brethren*, are of an unlimited number, for every maſter or mate, expert in navigation, may be admitted as ſuch; and theſe ſerve as a continual nurſery to ſupply the vacancy among the elder brethren, when removed by death or otherwiſe, whereof the maſter and two of the wardens are choſen annually[g] every Trinity

[f] Strype's Stow's Surv. vol. ii. Append. p. 89.

[g] Strype's Stow's Surv. vol. ii. book v. p. 286, 287.

Monday, uſually at their antient houſe at Deptford Strond, the others being for life.

The maſter, wardens, aſſiſtants, and elder brethren are by charter inveſted with the powers, among others, of examining the mathematical children of Chriſt's hoſpital, and of the maſters of his majeſty's ſhips; the appointing pilots to take charge, as well of the ſhips of his majeſty's royal navy, as merchant ſhips; the ſettling the ſeveral rates of pilotage, and the erecting and maintaining light-houſes, buoys, and beacons, and other ſea marks, upon the ſeveral coaſts of the kingdom, and in the mouth of the river Thames, for the better ſecurity of ſhips; to which end, the brethren frequently ſurvey the north and ſouth channels leading to the river Thames; the granting licences to poor ſeamen, not free of the city, to row on the river Thames, for their ſupport in the intervals of ſea ſervice, or when paſt going to ſea; to this corporation belongs the ballaſt-office for clearing and deepening the river Thames, by taking from it a ſufficient quantity of ballaſt, for the ſupply of all ſhips that ſail out of it.[a] After the maintenance of their light-houſes and other neceſſary expences of the corporation, the remainder of their revenue is applied wholly to the relief of poor decayed ſeamen, their widows and orphans, and none other; and of theſe there are relieved by them about three thouſand, at the expence of about ſix thouſand pounds, by yearly, monthly, or by other temporary charities, more or leſs, according to their neceſſities.

The benefits and revenues to ſupport theſe charities ariſe from light-money, buoys, beconage, ballaſtage, and from the benefactions of the brethren and others, which are contingent. And in conſideration of their neceſſary ſervice to the public, and that their ſhips and ſervants are to be at the call of government, they have ſeveral privileges and exemptions, ſuch as

[a] By act, anno 6 Geo. II.

not

not ſerving the office of ſheriff, or upon juries and inqueſts, and ſuch like burthens, which others are ſubject to. And this favour is alike to all the brethren, both elder and younger, their officers and ſervants. Their coat of arms is, *Between a croſs-gules, four ſhips under ſail.*

## *CHARITIES.*

JOHN ADDEY, maſter builder, of the king's-yard, Deptford, (who lies buried in this church,) by his will, in 1606, gave 200l. for a perpetual annuity towards the relief of the poor of St. Nicholas, Deptford, for ever, which was laid out in the purchaſe of the Gravelpit-field, in Deptford, the ground being veſted in feoffees in truſt, and of the annual produce of 126l. 10s. 6d. and by other donations, as after mentioned, and fines received on leaſes, &c. in New South Sea annuities 1000l. veſted in truſt, of the annual produce of 30l.

A PERSON UNKNOWN, about the ſame time, gave (by will, as is preſumed) half a quarter of wheat, to be diſtributed every Good Friday, for which there is now received 10s. and half a load of ruſhes at Whitſuntide, and a load of wheaten ſtraw at Chriſtmas, for which there is now received 1l. 1s.

JOHN RICH, at what time unknown, and is preſumed by will, gave to be diſtributed in bread weekly, after ſermon every Sunday morning, a yearly ſum, charged on an eſtate at Upper Deptford, of the annual product of 2l. 12s.

ROBERT STOUT, at what time unknown, and is preſumed by will, gave for the uſe of the poor of this pariſh, 1l. 6s. 8d per annum, charged on a houſe in Upper Deptford.

WILLIAM SEWERS, in 1640, gave by will, to be diſtributed in bread, on Michaelmas and Lady Days, a ſum of money, charged on four acres of land and two tenements in Upper Deptford, now of the annual product of 1l. 6s.

MR. JOINE, at what time unknown, gave to be diſtributed in bread a ſum of money, received by Mr. Gibſon, of Loampit-hill, and charged on land, of the annual product of 1l.

THE REV. ABRAHAM COLFE gave by will, in 1658, a ſum of money paid by the Leatherſellers company of the yearly product of 6s. 8d. though now 8s. 8d. and likewiſe to eight poor boys, of Deptford, the privilege of being taught, and a title to all the advantages belonging to any ſcholars educated in the grammar-ſchool founded by him at Lewiſham.

DR. ROBERT BRETTON in 1670, gave by will 200l. on a mortgage of the lands of Richard Maddox, the intereſt to be paid in the public ſchool for teaching twelve poor children grammar and writing to be laid out in the purchaſe of lands, the rents to be for a ſalary to the maſters, and if any of his four children died before they received the portion, he gave 200l. more out of the

ſaid

ſaid portion, for teaching twelve more poor children, the ſame to be laid out in the purchaſe of lands or houſes; and if a ſecond of his four children died before their portion due, he appointed 100l. more of the ſaid portion to be paid to the churchwardens, to be laid out in the purchaſe of rents, to be paid to the ſchool-maſter, for teaching ſix more poor children. N. B. It ſeems that only 400l. of theſe bequeſts were received, and thoſe laid out from time to time in various funds and ſecurities, and now, with Mrs. Elizabeth Wilſhaw's and Mrs. Sarah Trott's legacies below mentioned, make 600l. Old South Sea annuities, now veſted in truſt for this purpoſe; and Dr. Bretton, at the time of his death, gave 20l. to be diſtributed to the poor of this pariſh.

ESTHER POPE, in 1678, gave by will, to the vicar of this pariſh 20s. per ann. to be diſtributed by him to the poor at Chriſtmas, charged on two tenements in Lower Deptford, now of the annual value of 1l.

ROBERT CASTLE, in 1698, gave by will, to the feoffees of the Gravel-pit rents, for the benefit of the poor, 200l. which has not been paid.

JOSEPH FOWNES, in 1708, gave by will, to the above mentioned feoffees, to the ſame uſe, the ſum of 50l.

ELIZABETH WILSHAW, in 1709, gave by will, 120l. the produce to be yearly diſtributed on the day of her death, Nov. 11, to ſuch poor widows as frequent this pariſh church.

JUDITH FIOTT, in 1713, gave by will, to this pariſh, 130l. the yearly produce to be diſpoſed of in putting out apprentice one poor child, born in this pariſh, annually for ever. N. B. Theſe two laſt mentioned legacies, with Dr. Bretton's, make the ſum, in Old South Sea annuities, as mentioned in his legacy above, of the yearly produce of 18l.

FRANCES ATFEN, in 1713, gave by will, to the feoffees of the Gravel-pit rents, 10l. for the like uſes.

ISAAC LOADER, eſq. in 1714, gave by will, to the ſame feoffees, 200l. only 100l. of which appears to have been paid.

WILLIAM HOSIER, eſq. in 1717, gave by will a ſum of money, the intereſt of it to be applied for the educating of poor boys, which money is now veſted in 300l. Old South Sea annuities, and is veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 9l.

MARY GRANSDEN, in 1719, gave by will and deed, a farm at Plaiſtow, in Halſted, in the county of Eſſex, and two houſes in St. Bartholomew's-lane, London, and 80l. in money, for the benefit of poor children, educated and cloathed in the Subſcription charity ſchools in Deptford, which 80l. was laid out, being increaſed by a number of ſubſcriptions, in building the ſchools; the ſame is veſted in feoffees in truſt, and is of the annual produce of 77l. Mr. Robert Granſden, father of the teſtatrix, gave in his life time the inheritance of the ground on which the ſchool houſe ſtands.

DR.

Dr Stanhope, by will, in 1727, gave, for putting out boys apprentice, and every third year for cloathing and fitting girls for ſervice, and for pious books, 6l. per annum, being at that time 150l. New South Sea annuities, at 4 per cent. now 250l. the ſame being increaſed by a gift of 42l. 9s. 6d. by William Sherwin and William Collins, and a donation of William Holt, as mentioned below, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 7l. 10s. This parish has a right of preſentation of one poor perſon to queen Elizabeth's college, in Greenwich, founded by William Lambarde, eſq. veſted in the Leatherſellers company.

Sir John Scampion, ſcrivener of London, by his will, in 1563, and the ſame was eſtabliſhed by a commiſſion of charitable uſes in 1609, gave 12s. per annum towards the relief of the poor of Deptford, to be paid out of lands in it.

In this pariſh are two charity ſchools, for the cloathing and teaching of fifty boys and twenty girls.

By the act of parliament, anno 3 George II. 1730, for providing and maintenance of the miniſter of the new pariſh church of St. Paul, built in the pariſh of St. Nicholas Deptford, in the counties of Kent and Surry, and for making the ſame a diſtinct pariſh, it is enacted, that all gifts, charities, &c. before given to the pariſh, and then the property of it, ſhould, after the conſecration of the new church, be equally divided, one moiety for the benefit of the old pariſh, and the other for the benefit of the new one, in which ſtate the above gifts and charities remain equally divided between the two pariſhes at this time.

Since the above year, 1730, the *following charities* have been expreſsly given to the one or the other of the two pariſhes by name.

Thomas Jennings by will, in 1741, gave to be divided between the two pariſhes of Deptford, the intereſt to be diſtributed at the church on Candlemas-day, veſted in truſtees, the annual produce to this pariſh of one moiety, being 1l. 10s.

Sir John Evelyn, bart. in 1749, gave by deed, for the uſe, benefit, and ſupport of the poor of St. Nicholas, Deptford, land, preſumed to be veſted in his heir, and now of the annual produce of 11l. 11s. In 1751, by the conſent of the donor, the two truſtees, and an order of veſtry, the churchwardens ſold to the truſtees of the Kentiſh turnpike road about twenty roods of the ſaid land, to be laid into the road, for 10l. in money, which was veſted in Bank annuities, in truſt, and is of the annual produce of 6s.

William Sherwin and William Collins, by deed, in 1752, gave money to purchaſe lands, the rents of which ſhould be applied to the educating and cloathing ſeven poor boys of the two pariſhes of Deptford, of ſhipwrights, joiners, or houſe-carpenters; and if none ſuch, then other boys, and putting out one apprentice every year to one of thoſe trades, but not to exceed 14l. in cloathing and apprenticing, which money is veſted in

in Old South Sea annuities, being 1600l. and is of the annual produce of 48l. which is indiſcriminately applied to the uſe of both pariſhes.

THOMAS FELLOWS, eſq. gave by will, in 1752, the intereſt to be applied to the educating and cloathing as many poor children, boys and girls, as it would afford, the ſum of 1000l. 3 per Cent. in the name of the accountant-general of the court of chancery, out of which the pariſhes have not as yet received any benefit.

MARY WISEMAN, widow, in 1758, gave by will, 200l. the intereſt to be laid out annually for the cloathing of ſix poor boys of St. Nicholas and St. Paul, Deptford, to be cloathed in grey, which money has not been received, it not being thought ſufficient for the purpoſe; and likewiſe the ſum of 20l. Old South Sea annuities, to be annually laid out and diſtributed to poor widows and houſekeepers of St. Paul, Deptford, who do not take alms, but are real objects of charity and members and communicants of the church of England, on Feb. 19, yearly, veſted in truſt, and of the annual produce of 12s.

WILLIAM HOLT, about the year 1766, gave by will, 10l. to be added and applied to the purpoſes of Dr. Stanhope's donative above mentioned, which was added to the ſame Bank annuities as his was.

RICHARD BROOKE, in 1767, gave by will, the intereſt to be diſtributed to ſuch three poor men and three poor women, houſekeepers, not receiving alms, as the miniſter and churchwardens ſhould think fit, equally ſhare and ſhare alike, the ſum of 100l. Conſol. Bank annuities, of the annual produce of 3l.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS, in 1768, gave by will, for the ſupport of the charity ſchools in Deptford, and the benefit of the children taught therein, four leaſehold houſes, ſubject to a ground rent of 2l. 4s. per annum, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual product of 27l. 10s. which is indiſcriminately applied to the uſe of the poor boys of both pariſhes.

JOHN CHASTER, in 1783, gave by will, to be transferred to the ſeoffees of the Gravelpit rents, in Deptford, the intereſt to be applied in putting out as apprentice every year, one poor boy, out of the Subſcription Charity-ſchool; a bricklayer's ſon to have the preference, the ſum of 300l. 4 per cent. Bank annuities, veſted in his executors, and of the annual produce of 12l. which is indiſcriminately applied to the uſe of both pariſhes.

RICHARD PHILIPS, in 1784, gave by will, in truſt, for the uſe of the Subſcription Charity-ſchools, Deptford, for educating poor children, 50l. 3 per cent. conſol. Bank annuities, of the annual produce of 1l. 10s. which is indiſcriminately applied to the uſe of both pariſhes.

DEPTFORD,

DEPTFORD, as far as lies within the county of Kent, is within the ECCLESIATICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* ofRocheſter and *deanry* of Dartford.

About ſixty years ago a ſecond church was built here, and it was then divided into *two diſtinct pariſhes*, now known by the names of St. Nicholas's pariſh, (the old church, which before comprehended all Deptford,) and St. Paul's pariſh, the modern church, to which was annexed a diſtrict taken out of the former pariſh of St. Nicholas.

The church of St. Nicholas, of Weſt Greenwich, alias Deptford, was given by Juliana de Vere, widow of Hugh Bigod, and wife of Wakelin de Maminot, lord of this place, to the religious, then reſiding at Brockley, in this pariſh; which gift was afterwards confirmed by Jeffry de Saye, and Alice his wife, ſiſter of Wakelin, before-mentioned, who brought this inheritance to her huſband. Soon after which, perhaps by their removal from hence to Begham, in Suſſex, the patronage of this church again returned to Jeffry de Say; who granted it to the Knights Templars, in pure and perpetual alms. His ſon Jeffry regained the poſſeſſion of it, in exchange for other lands, and by his deed gave it to the canons at Begham.[a]

Gualeranus, biſhop of Rocheſter, (about 1183,) appropriated this church to the abbot and convent of Begham, which was confirmed, as well by pope Honorius III. as by the cardinal legate here, by ſeveral of the biſhops of Rocheſter, &c. By an antient valuation, taken in the 15th year of king Edward I. this church was eſtimated at fifteen marcs, and the vicarage at ſix marcs and an half.[b]

The church remained with this abbey till its final diſſolution in the 17th year of king Henry VIII. when being one of thoſe ſmaller monaſteries, which cardinal

[a] Regiſtrum Abb. de Begham, Cart. 150, 154. ad Dugdale, Mon. vol. i. p. 640. v. ii. p. 555.

[b] Stev. Monaſt. vol. i. p. 456.

Wolſey

Wolſey obtained of the king that year, for the endowment of his colleges, it was ſurrendered, with all the poſſeſſions belonging to it, into the cardinal's hands;[a] to whom the king granted his licence, by writ, in his 18th year, to appropriate, conſolidate, and annex the rectories, or churches, of Newington, Marden, Tewdeley, Brenchley, Leigh, Yalding, Pepingbury, and Weſt Greenwich, alias Deptford, in the county of Kent, and others in other counties, all which were of the cardinal's patronage, to the dean and canons of the college of Thomas Wolſey, cardinal of York, by him founded in the univerſity of Oxford,[b] &c. But this church ſtaid with them only four years; when that great prelate being caſt in a *præmunire*, in 1529, all the eſtates of the college were forfeited to the king, and became part of the revenue of the crown.

Queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, in her tenth year, granted the church of Weſt Greenwich to Philip Conway. The rent reſerved to the crown in the grants of this rectory being 5l. 6s. 8d.[c] It was afterwards, in the time of the uſurpation, granted in fee, under the above rent, to Edmund Downing and Peter Aſton.

The vicarage of St. Nicholas is valued in the king's books at 12l. 17s. 3½d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 5s. 8¾d. There is no vicarage houſe.

*The advowſon* ſeems to have remained in the crown from the year 1529, uninterrupted, till the death of king Charles I. in 1648. Soon after which a commiſſion of enquiry into the value of church livings, having iſſued out of Chancery by order of the ſtate, it was returned by preſentment, upon oath, that Deptford was a vicarage, with an houſe and five acres of glebe land, worth ſixty pounds per annum, Maſter Mallorie enjoying it. The preſentation to it afterwards became veſted in the family of Wickham, of Garſington,

[a] Text. Roff. p. 6.
[b] Rymer's Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 173.
[c] Ibid. vol. xviii. p. 686.
[d] Fee-farm Rolls, Temp. Interregni, Roll iv. No. 4.
[e] Bacon Lib. Regis.
[f] Parl. Surveys, Lambeth Library, vol. xix.

in

in the county of Oxford, who continued in poſſeſſion of it for many years. They were likewiſe owners of the parſonage or great tithes of Deptford, ſo far as lies in the county of Kent. By two female coheirs of the name of Wickham, this advowſon, as well as the parſonage, paſſed in marriage to Thomas Drake Tyrwhitt, eſq. and the reverend Dr. Drake, of Amerſham, in the county of Bucks, the younger ſons of William Drake, eſq. of that place, who, in right of their reſpective wives are *now entitled* to them, but the parſonage or great tithes of that part of Deptford, which lies within the county of Surry, which were lately and had been for ſome length of time in the family of Bowyer, of the county of Somerſet, paſſed by the will of one of them, as well as by deſcent, into the name of Windham, of the county of Suffolk, in which they continue at this time.

The tower of St. Nicholas church ſeems very antient. In 1780 it was repaired, and the great bell new caſt, the appearance of the reſt of the building is very unſightly, a medley of ſtones and brick, of Gothic and modern building of different times, but the inſide is uniform and handſome. The chancel is ſmall, and railed off from the church, it is richly ornamented with carving and paintings, one of queen Anne hangs on the right ſide of the altar.

In 1630, the number of inhabitants being greatly increaſed, it was found neceſſary to new build another iſle, on the north ſide, to which the Eaſt-India Company were good benefactors; and the chancel was enlarged and beautified, partly at the coſt of Sir William Ruſſell, treaſurer of the navy.[g] But the church, being yet too ſmall, the pariſh becoming more populous every year, and wanting much repair, they determined to rebuild it, which was begun and finiſhed in 1697. At the ſame time a handſome organ was erected, and

[g] Philipott, p. 161.

finiſhed,

finiſhed, at the coſt of different perſons.[a] The greateſt benefactor towards this building was Iſaac Loader, eſq. a generous inhabitant of this pariſh, who contributed upwards of nine hundred pounds towards the erecting and ornamenting of it, and lies buried within it.

Notwithſtanding all this care and expence, the church was ſtill incapable of holding the inhabitants of this extenſive and moſt populous pariſh, which induced them to petition for another church, to be erected for them in ſome other part of the pariſh, by the public bounty, under the acts of parliament for the building of fifty new churches, in or near London or Weſtminſter. A *new church* was accordingly erected, being a beautiful ſtone building with a lofty ſpire, and when finiſhed, was dedicated to St. Paul, and conſecrated on the 30th of June, 1730, by Edmund, lord biſhop of London, and an act of parliament paſſed for the providing a maintenance for the miniſter of this new church, lately built in the pariſh of St. Nicholas, and for making it a diſtinct pariſh. In which act the ſum of three thouſand five hundred pounds was ſettled for the miniſter's maintenance. The king was to preſent to the firſt vacancy, and the patrons of the old church for the future; and Dr. Norton, then miniſter of the old church, was to continue rector of the new. The rector of St. Paul's, Deptford, has no right to any tithes whatſoever; the vicarial tithes of all Deptford being reſerved by the act to the vicar of St. Nicholas, and the great tithes continuing a lay impropriation. What is remarkable in the above act is, that out of two thouſand acres of land, which Deptford conſiſted of, near one thouſand nine hundred and ſeventy acres were taken into the new pariſh of St. Paul; beſides which, four acres of glebe were taken from the old pariſh, and given to the churchwardens, for the time being, of the new pariſh, who pay the ſum of ſeventy pounds yearly,

[a] Strype's Stow's Survey, vol. ii. Append. p. 89.

as

as a farther maintenanance to the rector, over and above the three thouſand five hundred allotted by the act, which is veſted in the Old South Sea annuities for that purpoſe. The conſequence of which unequal diviſion of lands is, that whilſt the pariſh of St. Paul maintains its poor at a yearly aſſeſſment of about two ſhillings and four-pence in the pound, that of St. Nicholas ſeldom maintains its poor for leſs than five ſhillings and ſixpence yearly aſſeſſment. This being a new church is, conſequently, not in charge in the king's books. There is a handſome houſe built for the rector of it.

In the *church of St. Nicholas*, among other *monuments* and *memorials*, the whole of which are too numerous to mention here, is a monument, *in the ſouth iſle*, for John Hughes, A. M. of Jeſus college, in Cambridge, ob. 1710—for Mrs. Mary Granſden, a benefaction to the poor of this pariſh, ob. 1719; near it is a vault, in which lies Iſaac Loader, eſq. *In the eaſt-croſs iſle*, a monument for Peter Pett, eſq. ob. 1652—for R. Evelyn, ſon of John, ob. inf. and for Mary, eldeſt daughter of John Evelyn and Mary his wife, ob. 1685, ætat. 19.—a monument for the Brownes, of Saye's-court. In the *north iſle*, a monument for John, eldeſt ſon of admiral John Benbow, ob. 1762, ætat. 25. *In the middle iſle*, a monument for Katherine, wife of captain F. Wivell, daughter of captain Chriſtopher Gunman, ob. 1713, ætat. 40. *In the great chancel*, a monument for G. Shelvocke, eſq. ſecretary of the general poſt-office, and F. R. S. ob. 1760, ætat. 58, and lies buried with his father—for R. Boyle, eldeſt ſon of Richard earl of Cork, ob. 1617—for E. Fenton, eſq. of the body to queen Elizabeth, ob. 1603—a monument for William Hawkyns, eſq. of Plymouth, brother of Sir John Hawkyns, knight, ob. 1589. Throughout the church are monuments and memorials of the principal officers of the dock-yard and their families, captains of the royal navy,

and the like. *Within the window of the chancel*, above the altar-piece, is a ſmall oval one, repreſenting the nativity of our Saviour, finely executed in coloured glaſs. *In the third window*, on the ſouth ſide, are the following arms, firſt coat, *Argent three caſtles quarterly*, anno 1698; ſecond coat, *Or, ſix mullets ſable*; the arms of Lowden, anno 1698. *In the ſecond window*, firſt coat quarterly, *parted per pale argent and ſable, a chevron between three martlets countercharged*; ſecond, *ſable, a beſant between three eagles heads eraſed or, a chief indented ermine*; third as the ſecond, fourth as the firſt; over all, *an eſcutcheon of pretence ſable, a feſs between two chevrons ermine, in chief a covered cup or*, anno 1698. For Turner, Second coat, *quarterly*; firſt, *Argent on a bend quarterly, three eſcallops or*; ſecond quarterly, *indented or, and quarterly, in the dexter quarter a creſs lozengy*; third, *ſable a lion rampant or*; fourth as the firſt, impaling *ſable a feſs dancette or, in chief three fleurs de lis argent.* Over the door of the charnel-houſe, in the church-yard, is a good piece of ſculpture, in ſtone, repreſenting the Reſurrection.[a]

In the *church of St. Paul*, on the *ſouth ſide of the chancel*, is a ſumptuous monument for Matthew Finch, gent. of this pariſh, ob. 1745, ætat. 70; and for Mr. Benjamin Finch, his brother. *On the north ſide*, is a beautiful one, with an urn of Sicilian marble, for Mary daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Finch, wife of Richard Hanwell, gent. of the city of Oxford, ob. 1754, ætat. 25. Arms, Finch *impaling* Hanwell.

## *ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH.*

| PATRONS, *Or by whom preſented.* | VICARS. |
|---|---|
| *The Queen* ..... | *Robert Foſter*, clerk, 19th Aug. 1561.[b] |

[a] See the monuments and inſcriptions of this church deſcribed at full length in Reg. Roff. p. 936.

[b] Rymer's Fœd. vol. xv. p. 168.

PATRONS,

| PATRONS, &c. | VICARS. |
|---|---|
| *The Queen* ..... | *Samuel Page*, D. D. about 1603, buried here 8th Aug. 630.[c] |
| *The Lord Keeper* ..... | *Robert Mercer*, A. M. 9th Aug. 1630.[d] |
| | *Henry Valentine*, 8th Dec. 1630.[e] |
| | ..... *Mallory*, ejected for non-conformity, by the act, 1662.[f] |
| | *Robert Bretton*, D. D. obt. 1672.[g] |
| | *Richard Holden*, A. M. ob. 1700.[h] |
| | *George Stanhope*, D.D. obt. Mar. 18, 1728.[i] |
| | *William Norton*, D. D. obt. May 21, 1731.[k] |
| *Mrs. Wickham* ..... | *Isaac Colman*, resigned in Jan. 1737.[l] |
| | *Thomas Anguish*, Jan. 1737, obt. 1762. |
| | *William Worcester Wilson*, D. D. 1762, obt. 1792. |
| | *John Drake*, L. D. April 1792, the present vicar.[m] |

## *St. PAUL's CHURCH.*

| PATRONS, &c. | RECTORS. |
|---|---|
| *By the act of Parliament*, 1730. | *William Norton*, D. D. by the act, anno 1730, being vicar of St. Nicholas, the old church, obt. 21st May, 1731. |
| *The King, by the same act* ..... } *Mrs. Wickham* ..... } | *James Bate*, B. D. obt. Septem. 1775.[n] |
| *John Thornton, esq. of Clapham* ... | *Richard Conyers*, L. L. D. ind. Sept. 29, 1775, obt. Ap. 23, 1786. |
| *Mrs. Wickham*..... | *John Eaton*, 1786, the present rector. |

c See account of him in Ath. Oxon. vol. i. p. 546.

d Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 261.

e Rym. Fœd. p. 264.

f Vide Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

g He was rector of St. Martin's Ludgate, and prebendary of Cadington Minor, in St. Paul's. Newc. Rep. vol. i. p. 132.

h Rector of St. Dunstan's in the East. Newc. ibid. p. 334.

i Dean of Canterbury and vicar of Lewisham, where he lies buried.

k And rector of the new church of St. Paul, Deptford, by the act.

l He exchanged the vicarage with his successor, for the rectory of Weston and the vicarage of Halworth, in Suffolk.

m And rector of Amersham, in the county of Buckingham.

n He was eldest son of the Rev. Js. Bate, vicar of Chilham.

## GREENWICH

LIES next to Deptford eaſtward, on the bank of the Thames, having Blackheath on the upper or ſouthern ſide of it. It was called in Latin *Grenovicum, viridis ſinus a viridariis*; in Saxon *Grenawic*; i. e. the Green Town, or dwelling upon the bank of the river; which laſt part of the word is now, by corruption, written *wich*. In antient evidences it was called Eaſt Greenwich, to diſtinguiſh it from Deptford, which was called Weſt Greenwich.

It was not ſo famous formerly for its buildings (being indeed only a fiſhing town ſo late as the reign of king Henry V.) as for the ſafe road which the river afforded for the ſhipping here, where the whole Daniſh fleet, in the time of king Ethelred, lay for three or four years together; whilſt the army was, for the moſt part, encamped on the hill above the town, now called Blackheath.[a]

During this time, about 1011, they ravaged the whole county, and having ſacked and ſpoiled the city of Canterbury, they brought from thence Abp. Alphege to their camp here; where they ſlew him, becauſe he could not raiſe the ſum which they demanded for his ranſom. From this camp of the Danes there are ſeveral places in this pariſh ſtill called *combes*. *Comb*, as well as *comp*, in Saxon ſignifying a camp, for they uſed both words; the former was, moſt likely, the Saxon word, and the latter Daniſh, or corrupt Saxon.

On Blackheath, and within the walls of Greenwich park, are ſeveral barrows, or *tumuli*; many of which are ſuppoſed to be the burial-places of ſome of the Danes, who died during their encampment here.

[a] Lamb. Peramb. p. 470. Lamb. Dict. p. 128. Camd. Brit. p. 219. Philipott, p. 160, 161. Coke's Inſt. part i. f. 4.

The

The town of Greenwich joins that of Deptford weſtward. It is moſtly built along the bank of the Thames, which is here very broad, and the channel deep; though at ſome high tides the water of it is ſalt, yet it is uſually ſweet and freſh. Great part of it joins the northern ſide of the park; but the contiguous buildings on the two avenues from it to Blackheath, called Crooms, or Coomes-hill, on the weſtern, and Meaſe-hill with Vanbrugh's-fields on the eaſtern part, now extend it quite up to that heath towards the ſouth, the park intervening and filling up the ſpace between them.

Greenwich is ſuppoſed to contain about two thouſand houſes, is very populous, and reckoned one of the genteeleſt and pleaſanteſt towns in England; many of its inhabitants being perſons of rank and fortune. It was greatly improved by the powers of an act paſſed in 1753. The dryneſs and ſalubrity of the ſoil and air, the conveniency of the park, the general pleaſantneſs of the adjoining country, and its near neighbourhood to the metropolis, contribute to make it a moſt deſirable reſidence for people of faſhion and fortune.

It has two weekly markets, held on Wedneſday and Saturday, granted in 1737, to the Governors of the Royal Hoſpital, for the benefit of the charity, but no annual fair, though there are two on the neighbouring heath.

The park is a moſt delightful ſpot of ground, extending as far as Blackheath; it was enlarged, planted, and walled round by king Charles II. It is well ſtocked with deer, and has, perhaps, as much variety in it, in proportion to its ſize, as any park in the kingdom. The views from it are beautiful beyond imagination.

The ranger of this park has a handſome houſe, formerly called the Queen's, or Houſe of Delight, for his reſidence, which was once part of the old palace of Greenwich.

Hollar engraved a proſpect of Greenwich for many miles, to London, &c. in two ſheets, near a yard long,

in 1637—A north-weſt view was publiſhed by Buck—Another from the Obſervatory, by Bigamy, was engraved by S. Toms; and another from One-tree-hill, in the park, was engraved by J. Wood, from a painting by Pond.

BLACKHEATH, ſo called, probably from the black ſoil which extends over great part of it, is a beautiful plain, lying on the ſouth ſide of Greenwich park. Here is dug a gravel, conſiſting of ſmooth, even pebbles, ſo ſuperior to that of any other place for making walks in gardens, when mixed with loame, that it is ſent for from the moſt diſtant parts of England, and even from France, for this purpoſe. The high road from London to Dover croſſes this heath; and at the entrance of it from Deptford-hill, the houſes on each ſide form a village of elegant and handſome buildings; particularly, on the ſouth ſide is the earl of Dartmouth's, and on the oppoſite ſide, at the ſouth weſt corner of Greenwich-park are the late duke of Montague's, now the duke of Buccleugh's; the late earl of Cheſterfield's, now Mr. Hulſe's, and ſeveral others, inhabited by perſons of diſtinction, which have a pleaſant double row of trees, called Montague-walk, extending before them almoſt as far as Coome's-hill. The ſouth ſide of the heath is bounded by the grounds, late Sir Gregory Page's park, now John Cator's, eſq. ſince the diſparking of which ſeveral handſome houſes have been built on the ſouth-weſt edge of it, next the road going down to Lee and Eltham.

At the ſouth-eaſt corner of the heath, in a ſmall receſs, ſtands Morden-college, built for the ſupport of poor and decayed Turkey merchants, which, as well as the ſcite of Sir Gregory Page's late ſeat, are in Charlton pariſh, and will be further mentioned hereafter.

At

At the north-eaſt corner of the heath, and almoſt joining to Meaze-hill, are Vanbrugh's-fields, ſo called from Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of ſome buildings here, which he erected in a very particular manner, to reſemble a fortification, with battlements, towers, &c. and a gateway of the like form, under which you paſs in your approach to them. A principal one of this ſort, called the Caſtle, on Meaze-hill, was lately the reſidence of lord Tyrawley, who ſold it to Mr. Charles Brett; as he again did to Henry Goodwyn, eſq. who now reſides in it.

The Roman Watling-ſtreet way, leading to Dover, is ſuppoſed to have croſſed this heath. Dr. Plot ſays, in his time, it appeared pretty plain, pointing from the top of Deptford-hill eaſt-ſouth-eaſt towards Shooter's-hill, and a little beyond the ſouth-eaſt corner of the park-wall, leaving the high road on the left hand, and ſhewing itſelf but faintly, it inclined eaſterly. At a ſmall diſtance from the corner of the hedge, on the right hand, where the road to Dover and that to Lee parts, are the remains of *three tumuli*, or *barrows*; one of which is a pretty large one, out of which ſome bones have been dug. In 1710, there were dug up here a great many urns, among them two of an unuſual form, one globular, the other cylindrical, about eighteen inches in length, both of them of a fine red clay. That, globular, was very ſmooth and thin; its circumference was ſix feet three inches, it had aſhes in it, but no coins under the rim; about the mouth of it MARCUS AVRELIVS IIII. was rudely ſcratched.

The other contained a great quantity of aſhes, and in the cavity, marked *c*. were ſix or ſeven coins, much obliterated, but on one of them was legible the word CLAVDIUS, and on another GALLIENVS, on the next page are the figures of them.




Dr. Plot ſays that ſome years ago a curious glaſs urn was found in a bed of hard gravel on this heath.

On the left hand ſide of the high road, near the gate which leads to Coomes-hill, is a cluſter of theſe *barrows*, amounting to above fifty. And there are about the like number of them in Greenwich-park. In 1784 about fifty of theſe *barrows* in Greenwich park were opened by Mr. Douglas, in which were found lumps of iron and broad headed nails, with decayed wood adhering to them, by which he conjectured the bodies to have been interred in a very thick coffin. There were likewiſe found human hair in quantities, ſpear heads, knives, fragments of limbs and remains of woollen cloths. Thoſe in which no military weapons were found it was not unreaſonable to conclude contained female bodies. The graves were very ſhallow; the ground in which was this cluſter of *barrows* was nearly in a circular form, and the diameter about one hundred feet. About ſeventy years before this, ſome ground where theſe *barrows* are ſituated, was dug up, when ſeveral things of value were found.

The

The ſame year Mr. Douglas explored another range of *barrows*, near the gate which leads to Coomes-hill, to a like amount, which he conceived to be lower Britiſh, and on opening one, in which were ſimilar beads to thoſe wherein he had found coins, dating their age to be of the fifth and beginning of the ſixth century. He diſcovered the remains of a garment, and a braid of human hair of an auburn colour, remains of cloth, both woollen and linen, of different fineneſs and texture; the graves were very ſhallow, ſome not exceeding three feet in depth.

From the turning to Lee till about half a mile on this ſide Shooter's-hill, there are no certain marks of the Roman way. But the highway from thence to Dover, within theſe fifty years, has been ſo much altered, and the whole ſurface of it, as well as the adjoining ground, ſo entirely changed, that the remains of the Roman way along it are not near ſo frequent and viſible as they were before.

*On Blackheath* the Daniſh army lay a great while encamped, about the year 1011, as has been before obſerved, and many trenches and other remains of the lines of camps are viſible here; though theſe, in all likelihood, are moſt of them works of a much later date, and have been caſt up by the rebels, who have encamped here at different times. In the year 1381, thoſe inſolent rebels, Wat Tyler, with Jack Straw, and one John Ball, and their adherents, lay encamped here, for ſome time, with a rabble of near one hundred thouſand men. In the year 1450, Jack Cade, that impoſtor, who pretended himſelf to be a Mortimer, and kinſman to the duke of York, encamped here twice with his rebellious followers. Once, when he ſent from hence his impudent demands to king Henry VI. and again ſoon after, when, having defeated Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother, whom the king had ſent againſt them, near Sevenoke, they marched hither, and being joined by a large party from Suſſex

and

and Surry, they all encamped and entrenched themſelves on this heath. King Henry VI. in 1452, pitched his royal pavilion here, in the preparation he had made to withſtand the force of his couſin Edward duke of York, (afterwards king Edward IV.) And here the baſtard, Falconbridge, encamped againſt that king. In the reign of king Henry VII. anno 1497, the Corniſh rebels, amounting to ſix thouſand men, headed by the lord Audley, one Michael Joſeph, a farrier, and Thomas Flammock, a lawyer, encamped on this heath; where, the king gave them battle, and ſlew two thouſand of them on the ſpot, forcing the reſt, with their leaders, to ſurrender at diſcretion.[a]

Beſide theſe melancholy occurrences, there have been ſome *joyous meetings* and *coſtly ſhews* held on this heath.

About the end of the year 1400, Manuel Palæogus, emperor of Conſtantinople, arrived in England, to intreat the king's aſſiſtance againſt Bajazet, emperor of the Turks, and was met here by king Henry IV. with great parade and magnificence.[b] On Nov. 23, anno 1415, the mayor and aldermen of London, with four hundred citizens in ſcarlet, with red and white hoods on, met their victorious prince, king Henry V. here, after his memorable battle of Agincourt, in France, and conducted him to London, amidſt their repeated acclamations.

In the beginning of next year, they met the emperor Sigiſmund on this heath, who was come over to mediate a peace between the crowns of France and England. He was attended by the duke of Glouceſter, and many other lords, with great pomp and magnificence, and by them conducted to the king, who met him at Lambeth.

[a] Rapin, vol. i. p. 491. 515, 680, 738.
[b] Harris's Hiſt. Kent, p. 138, 516. Fiddes's Wolſey, p. 204.

In

In 1474, the lord mayor and aldermen of London in ſcarlet, with five hundred citizens, all in murrey gowns, met king Edward IV. here, at his return from France. In the tenth year of king Henry VIII. anno 1518, a ſolemn embaſſy, conſiſting of the admiral of of France, the archbiſhop of Paris, and others, with no leſs than twelve hundred perſons in their train, were met on this heath by the lord admiral of England, and above five hundred gentlemen. Cardinal Campejus, ſent into England by the pope as his legate, in the year 1518, was received upon his arrival with great pomp and teſtimonies of reſpect; being met at Blackheath by the duke of Norfolk, and a great number of prelates, knights, and gentlemen, and conducted by them into a rich tent of cloth of gold, where he ſhifted his habit, and having put on the cardinal's robes, edged with ermine, rode from hence in much ſtate to London. At this place king Henry VIII. in the 31ſt year of his reign, met the princeſs, Anne of Cleve, with much pomp and magnificence. In the reign of queen Elizabeth, 1585, in April and May, the queen being at Greenwich, the city militia, completely armed, muſtered before her for ſix or eight days, laying intrenched about Blackheath, to the number of four or five thouſand men, many of whom dreſſed themſelves with ſcarfs, feathers, &c.[c]

Beſides the above, there have been many more remarkable ſhews and meetings held on this heath; it being the place where, in general, ſuch as were of any diſtinction, coming from abroad, were met, in order to be conducted with proper ſtate and pomp from hence to London. But the above muſt ſuffice as an example of the reſt, as the account of thoſe already mentioned has been, I fear, too long, in the judgment of many of my readers.

[c] Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 452.

There

There are two *annual fairs* on this heath; one on the 12th of May, and the other on the 11th of October. Theſe are held on that part of the heath which lies in Lewiſham. George lord Dartmouth obtained a grant from king Charles II. to hold a fair twice a year, and a market twice a week, upon that part of this heath in the pariſh of Lewiſham, of which manor he was lord. This fair uſed to be held on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of May, and the 11th, 12th, and 13th of October yearly; but by public notice given by the earl of Dartmouth in 1772, it has ſince been diſcontinued, except on May 12, and Oct. 11, and then it is held for the ſale of cattle only.

In the pariſh of Greenwich was a royal magazine for gunpowder, for the uſe of government; which being repreſented as of a very dangerous conſequence, not only to the town of Greenwich, but to the city of London and its neighbourhood, it was removed by authority of Parliament in 1760, to Purfleet in Eſſex, where a regular branch of the ordnance is eſtabliſhed, for the care and preſervation of it.

In the time of king Henry VIII. there was a printing-office here, Dr. Plot having ſeen a book printed in that reign at Greenwich.

In the reign of queen Elizabeth, the aſſizes for this county were held three times at Eaſt Greenwich; viz. anno 1558, in the 1ſt year of that reign, before ſerjeants-at-law-elect Carius and Chomley; in the third week in Lent, anno 1561, in the 4th of the ſame reign, before ſerjeant Ralph Chomley, and the attorney-general Gerard; and again in Lent, anno 1562, in the 5th year of queen Elizabeth before the laſt-mentioned judges.[a]

Eaſt Greenwich ſent two burgeſſes to the parliament, which met at Weſtminſter anno 4 and 5 Philip

[a] Kilburne, p. 399.

and

and Mary, viz, Thomas Farnham and John Sackvill, eſqrs. but this is the only return it ever made.[b]

Chauncy, in his Hiſtory of Hertfordſhire, p. 251, ſays, that as the ſending and maintaining burgeſſes in parliament is no franchiſe, but a ſervice, it cannot be loſt by diſcontinuance, as was reſolved by the houſe of commons, in the 22d of king James I. (in the caſe of the borough of Hertford, upon their petition to that houſe to be reſtored to their antient right of ſending burgeſſes to parliament,) after the committee appointed to view the records had made their report to the houſe, and great debate had ariſen, whether their long diſcontinuance had not deſtroyed their right of election.

The *following ſcarce plants* have been obſerved in and near Greenwich.

Cochlearia Britannica, *or common Engliſh ſcurvy-graſs, or ſpoonwort; on the banks of the river Thames.*
Anthyllis leguminoſa, *kidney vetch.*
Ornithopodium majus, *the great birdsfoot.*
Ornithopodium minus, *ſmall birdsfoot; on Blackheath, in the highway leading from Greenwich to Charlton.*
Chamænerion, *roſe-bay, willowherb; in ſome ſwampy woods at Greenwich.*
Sonchus tricubitalis fol; cuſpidato; *in the meadows between Greenwich and Woolwich.*
Lunaria, *or ſmall moon-wort; upon the ſide of Blackheath, near the ſtile which leads to Eltham-houſe.*
Cornu cervinum, *or Hartſhorne; and* Cornopus ruellis, *ſwines creſſes, or buckſhorne.*
Carlina ſylveſtris major, *the great white carline thiſtle.*
Aſperula quinta, *ſmall red flowered woodroof.*
Fumaria alba latifolia claviculata; hyacinthus Anglicus; *Engliſh harebells; all on the ſame heath.*

[b] Willis's Notit. p. 56.

Stellaria

Stellaria ſanicula major; *ladies mantle*; *by the hedge-ſide between Greenwich and Charlton.*[a]

Greenwich gave *title* to that eminent and illuſtrious ſoldier, John Campbell, duke of Argyle, in Scotland; who, in the 4th year of queen Anne, was created Baron of Chatham and Earl of Greenwich; and on the 30th of April 1719, anno 5 king George I. in conſideration of his great ſervices to the nation, was advanced to the dignity of Duke of Greenwich. He died in 1743, without iſſue male; by which the titles of duke and earl of Greenwich, and baron of Chatham, expired with him. He lies buried in Weſtminſter-abbey, under a moſt magnificent monument. The duke bore for his arms, *Quarterly*, firſt and fourth, *girony of eight pieces, or and ſable*, for Campbell; ſecond and third, *argent, a lymphad, or old-faſhioned ſhip, with one maſt, cloſe ſails, and oars in action, all ſable, with flag and penons flying, gules*, for the lordſhip of Lorn.

By his firſt wife, who died in 1716, he had no iſſue; but by his ſecond, Jane, daughter of Thomas Warburton, of Winnington, in Cheſhire, eſq. he had five daughters and coheirs; of whom the lady Caroline Campbell, the eldeſt, married in 1742, Francis, earl of Dalkeith, eldeſt ſon of Francis, duke of Buccleugh, who died before his father in 1750; by whom ſhe had ſix children.

She married, ſecondly, in 1755, the honourable Charles Townſhend, ſecond ſon of Charles, viſcount Townſhend; and on the 18th of Auguſt, anno 7 George III. by letters patent paſſed, granting to her the ſaid lady Caroline, commonly called counteſs of Dalkeith, the dignity of baroneſs of Greenwich, to her and to the heirs male of her body, begotten by the

[a] Johnſon's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 400, 1242. Merrett's Pinax p. 25. 115. Johnſon's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 406, 427, 1159. Merrett's Pinax, p. 11, 40, 64.

right

right honourable Charles Townſhend above-mentioned; who died the 4th of September following, (being at the time a privy-counſellor and chancellor, and under-treaſurer of the exchequer,) leaving by her, two ſons, Thomas-Charles and William-John, and one daughter. The two ſons died, *ſ. p.* before their mother, who dying in 1794, without ſurviving male iſſue by her ſecond huſband, the title of baroneſs of Greenwich became extinct.

The *manors of Greenwich* and *Coombe* likewiſe were always appendages to the adjoining manor of Lewiſham, and as ſuch were given to it by Elthruda, king Alfred's niece, to the abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent, to which Lewiſham became a cell, (or alien priory); which grant is ſaid to have been renewed and confirmed, at the inſtance of archbiſhop Dunſtan, by king Edgar, in the year 964, as it was again by king Edward the Confeſſor in 1044, with the church, and ſeveral liberties and privileges.[b]

There is no particular mention of this manor in Domeſday; in all likelihood, being but an appendage to another manor, it was comprehended, as part of the abbot of Ghent's poſſeſſions, under the general title of Lewiſham. William the Conqueror again confirmed this grant, as did ſeveral of his ſucceſſors, particularly king Henry I. who granted many additional liberties and privileges with it.[c]

Upon a plea of *quo warranto*, brought againſt the abbot, &c. in the 21ſt of king Edward I. the abbot claimed to have, in Lewiſham and its appendages, view of frank-pledge, and all rights belonging to it; and free warren, gallows, and amerciaments, as well of the inhabitants as of his own tenants, and waife, &c.

[b] Tan. Mon. p. 209. Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 960.

[c] Scilt. 13 Hen. III. 11 Edw. II. 48 Edw. III. &c. See alſo Eſch. 12 Edw. II. Conceſſio Hen. II. maner. de Leveſham et Grenewich Abbatiæ de Gand. In Bod. Cat. Mſſ. 196. See Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 550.

all

all which the jurors allowed him and his predeceſſors to have been in poſſeſſion of time out of mind, excepting, that they had not free warren, only in their demeſne lands.

The manor of Lewiſham, with Greenwich, &c. remained in this ſituation till the ſuppreſſion of the alien priories throughout England, by the ſtatute of the 2d of king Henry V. (anno 1414,) when this of Lewiſham being one of them was diſſolved, on which the manor of Greenwich, with the church and appendages, became the property of the crown, where it did not continue long; for next year the king ſettled it, with the church, on his new founded houſe, or Carthuſian priory of Jeſus of Bethleem, of or near Shene.[a]

But Greenwich having become a royal reſidence, this manor, as well as that of Lewiſham, being in the poſſeſſion of the monks, could not but give continual umbrage to the princely inhabitants of this palace. However, the religious remained in the quiet poſſeſſion of them till king Henry VIII. leſs ſcrupulous in theſe matters found means to obtain the ſurrendry of both, and to annex them to the patrimony of the crown, in his 23d year; when John Joburne, the prior of Shene, and the convent of it, granted to that prince their manors and lordſhips of Lewiſham and Eaſt Greenwich, with their appurtenances and the churches belonging to them; excepting and reſerving to the prior, &c. three tenements in Eaſt Greenwich, late belonging to John Cole, ſub-dean of the king's chapel, and other premiſes therein-mentioned.[b]

This manor remained part of the royal demeſnes till the death of king Charles I. in 1648, when it became the property of the ſtate. After which an ordinance was paſſed next year, for the ſale of the crown lands; in which the honour and manor of Greenwich,

[a] Reg. Roff. p. 472. Tan. Mon. p. 544. Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 974. [b] Rym. Fœd. vol. xiv. p. 407. Augm. office.

among

among many other of the late king's manors, palaces, parks, &c. was reſerved to its own uſe.[c] In which ſituation it continued till the re-eſtabliſhment of monarchy, and the reſtoration of king Charles II. in 1660; when it again returned to the crown, as part of the royal patrimony, where it has remained ever ſince.

There is a court leet and court baron now held for it.

OLD COURT is a place in this pariſh, which, as its name implies, is, no doubt, of great antiquity, and might, perhaps, be the very ſcite of the before-mentioned manor of Eaſt Greenwich. However that be, it paſſed by the ſame deed of exchange from the prior and convent of Shene to king Henry VIII. in his 23d year, and became part of the poſſeſſions of the crown; where it ſtaid but a few years; for that king, in his 20th year, by his letters patent, granted to his ſervant, Richard Long, for his life, his manor, called *le Old-court*, in Eaſt and Weſt Greenwich, and the tenth part or portion of hay, corn, and other tithes in thoſe pariſhes, appertaining to it, late belonging to the priory of Shene, to hold without any account or rent whatſoever.[d] And the like grant on his death, was made to Sir Thomas Speke, knight, by king Edward VI. in his firſt year; after which the king, by his letters patent, in his fourth year, granted to John, earl of Warwick, his manor of, otherwiſe, the Old-court, and forty acres of upland, and the tenth of hay of Eaſt Greenwich belonging to it, to hold in *capite* by knight's ſervice;[e] but the earl, in leſs than a fortnight afterwards re-conveyed them again to the king, who next year granted them to Thomas Darcy, lord Darcy of Chiche, to hold during life, without any accompt or rent whatſoever.[f]

[c] Scobell's Coll. p. 63.
[d] Augtn. Off. In. of that year.
[e] Rot. Eſch. 4 Edw. VI. m. 7. Augtn. Off. Deeds of Purc. and Exch. T. Ed. VI. Box G. 17.
[f] Augtn. Off. Inrolm. of Penſions and Leaſes. Parl. Surveys, Augtn. off.

At the death of king Charles I. in 1648, Old Court, with ſome of the demeſne lands belonging to it, ſtill remained in the poſſeſſion of the crown. In 1649, the parliament paſſed an ordinance for the ſale of the lands,[a] late belonging to the crown, in conſequence of which this manor, with its appurtenances, parcel of the honour of Eaſt Greenwich,[b] the parſonage-houſe, and ſeveral tenements and lands were ſold to Robert Titchborne, who kept poſſeſſion of them till the *reſtoration* of king Charles II. in 1660, when they again became part of the royal revenue.

Some years after which, this manor or ſcite, called *Le Old Court*, with ſeveral demeſne lands belonging to it, was granted by the crown, by letters patent, anno 11 William III. to the truſtees, for the uſe of Sir John Morden, bart. of Wricklesmarſh, in Charlton, at the yearly fee-farm of 6l. 13s. 4d. and he, by his will, in 1708, veſted it in truſtees, for the uſe and benefit of his new erected college, adjoining to Blackheath, ſince called Morden-college, where it ſtill continues.

It has been already mentioned,[c] that from the camp of the Danes, in this pariſh, there are certain places in it called *Combe*, of which there are at this time two; the one moſt commonly called Combe, and heretofore Nether-combe, alias Eaſt-combe; and the other Weſt-combe; and there was formerly, as antient evidences ſhew, Middle-combe, alias Spittle-combe, the name of which is now forgotten.[d]

COMBE, alias *Eaſt* or *Nethercombe*, was an appendage to the manor of Lewiſham, and was given with that manor to St. Peter's abbey at Ghent, where it ſtaid till the ſuppreſſion of the alien priories by king Henry V. in his 2d year, who ſettled it, with

[a] Augm. Off. Inrolm.

[b] Scob. Coll. p. 63. Aug. Off. Roll. of Parl. H. 13.

[c] See his will in Strype's Stow's Survey, b. i. p. 220. and his Peramb. p. 128.

[d] See Lamb. Dict. p. 470.

that

that manor, next year, on his new-founded priory, at Shene, where it ſtaid till it was exchanged with king Henry VIII. in his 23d year, by the prior and convent, for other premiſes. From which time[e] Combe remained in the poſſeſſion of the crown till Charles I.[f] by his letters patent, in his 7th year, granted it, by the name of the meſſuage or farm called Nethercombe, alias Eaſtcombe, with the ſcite of it, being part of the demeſne lands, belonging to the manor of Old Court, in Eaſt Greenwich, to John Cooke and Thomazine his wife, containing in the whole two hundred and ſeventy-two acres, for three lives, at the yearly rent of 42l. 16s. 8d. and fifty loads of hay, to be delivered yearly at the barn at Greenwich, for the feeding the king's horſes, and paying, after the deceaſe of the three nominees, ſixty-ſix ſhillings, in the name of an heriot. Afterwards the king, by his letters patent, in his 12th year, in conſideration of the great damage ſuſtained by him, in the breach of the Thames-wall, and the repairing of it, and of fifty pounds, to be paid before hand, granted to him a further leaſe for thirty-one years, to begin immediately after the expiration of the former term, at the like yearly rent; after which John Cooke above mentioned, and one Miles Newton, to whom both the grants were aſſigned, by way of mortgage, in 1636, conveyed their intereſt in both theſe grants to Peter Fortree, gent. In which ſituation this eſtate remained at the death of king Charles, in 1648, ſoon after which there was a *ſurvey* of it taken by order of the truſtees, appointed by parliament, for the ſale of the crown lands, by which it appeared, that Leah, widow and executrix of the above-mentioned Peter Fortree, deceaſed, was then in poſſeſſion of thoſe grants; that the value of the fifty loads of hay, *communibus annis*, was 66l. 13s.

[e] It appears by the Text. Roff. p. 230, there was formerly a chapel at Combe.

[f] Augm. Off. Parl. Surveys.

which, with the reſerved rent of 42l. 16s. 8d. amounted to 109l. 10s. and that the value of the *improved rent* of the farm, over and above the reſerved rent, was 159l. 13s. By virtue of the above ordinance, this farm of Nethercombe, alias Eaſtcombe, and ſeveral other lands, were ſold by the ſtate (ſubject to the above grants) to Thomas French.[a]

On the *reſtoration* of king Charles II. the *fee* of this eſtate returned to the crown, and the poſſeſſion of it to the Fortrees; and James Fortree, ſon of Leah, in 1663, quitted his reſidence at this place, and built Wombwell-hall, in Northfleet, where his family continued till very lately.

Afterwards Combe came into the poſſeſſion, and was the reſidence of Sir William Sanderſon. This family is ſaid to be deſcended from Robert de Bedick, of Bedick lordſhip in Waſhington, in the biſhopric of Durham, who lived in the time of Maud the Empreſs. James, third ſon of Alexander de Bedick, being called Alexanderſon, was anceſtor of this family, which from him came to be called Sanderſon. They bore for their coat armour, *Paly of ſix argent and azure, a bend ſable.*

The family of this name, in the biſhopric of Durham, bear *a ſword argent on the bend*; and it is borne with *three mullets on the bend* by others.[b] Sir William Sanderſon above mentioned was created a baronet in 1720, and was ſucceeded in his title and eſtate by his ſon of the ſame name, who by his third wife Charlotte, one of the daughters of Sir Richard Gough, of the county of Warwick, who ſurvived him, left an only child, William Henry, who, on his father's death, in 1754, ſucceeded him in title; on whoſe death, in his 15th year, in 1760, it became extinct. On the death of Sir William Sanderſon, the father,

[a] Augm. Off. Parl. Surveys.
[b] Baronetage, vol. v. p. 199. Guillim, p. 404.

his

his widow, lady Sanderſon, became entitled to this ſeat and eſtate, which ſhe died poſſeſſed of in 1780; when it came to the Rt. hon. Frederick Montague, as heir at law, who is the preſent owner of it. Since the Sanderſons, this ſeat has been the reſidence of ſeveral different perſons. It was for many years occupied by General Harvey, afterwards by John Hook Campbell, eſq. lion king at arms. Rich. Edwards, eſq. at preſent reſides in it. There is a fee-farm rent of 42l. 17s. paid to the crown for it.

In the 37th year of king Henry VIII. an act of parliament paſſed, to make every perſon, who ſhould be owner of *Combe-marſhes*, in the pariſh of Eaſt-Greenwich, contributary, from time to time, towards the reparation of them, according to the laws and cuſtoms of Romney-marſh.

WESTCOMBE MANOR is held of the manor of Dartford, alias Richmond's, and is called in the rolls of it, *the manor of Combe Weſt.*

In the reign of king Edward II. this manor and its appendant members were in the poſſeſſion of the family of Badleſmere, but by the attainder of Bartholomew lord Badleſmere, that great and powerful baron, who was executed for treaſon in the 15th year of that reign, they eſcheated to the crown, and continued among the royal revenues till king Richard II. granted them to Sir Robert Belknap the judge; upon whoſe *attainder*, in the 10th year of the ſame reign, they again reverted to the crown;[c] and were, quickly after, granted in fee by that king to Robert Ballard, eſq. (*pincernæ ſuæ*) his butler; that is, the manors of Weſt-combe and Spittle-combe in Greenwich, and two water-mills in Deptford, with their appurtenances in Charlton and Writtlemarſh.

In the 14th year of king Henry VII. Anne, wife of the lord Audley, held theſe manors in Greenwich and

[c] Philipott, p. 163. Dugd. Baron. vol. ii. p. 58.

Charlton of the counteſs of Richmond, but by what ſervice was unknown; and William Ballard was found to be her heir.[a] In which name they continued till the very beginning of the reign of Philip and Mary, when Nicholas Ballard alienated Weſtcombe to John Lambarde, eſq. draper and alderman, and formerly one of the ſheriffs of London;[b] who, dying in 1554, was buried in the church of St. Michael, Wood-ſtreet, London. By Julian, his wife, daughter and heir of William Horne, of London, he was father of that ingenious and learned antiquary, William Lambarde, eſq, who ſucceeded him in this eſtate, and reſided here. He was a bencher of the Society of Lincoln's-inn, maſter in chancery, and keeper of the rolls and records, and belonged to the alienation-office under queen Elizabeth, and was well known by the many learned books which he publiſhed; of which, in 1568, he wrote his *Archionomia*—in 1570, his Perambulation of Kent—in 1581, his *Eirenarcha*, or office of Juſtice of the Peace—in 1591, his *Archeion*, or Diſcourſe upon the high Courts of Juſtice—and in 1600, his *Pandecta Rotulorum*—beſides ſeveral treatiſes, ſome of which yet remain unpubliſhed; and one, viz. his Topographical Dictionary, which was firſt publiſhed in 1730. He founded and endowed a college for the poor at Greenwich, in 1574, giving it the name of Queen Elizabeth's college, and dying at Weſtcombe, in 1601, was buried in Greenwich church, where there was a handſome monument erected for him; but when the old church of Greenwich was pulled down, in order to build the preſent one, the monument of Sir Multon Lambarde and his father was removed at the charge of Thomas Lambarde, late of Sevenoke, eſq. and placed in that church, with an additional inſcription, ſetting forth

[a] Rot. Eſch. ejuſd. anni. [b] Son of William Lambarde, of Ledbury, in the co. of Hereford, gent. Viſtn. co. Kent, 1619. Ped. Lambarde.

the

the reaſon of its being removed thither. The Lambardes bore for their arms, *Gules, a chevron vaire, between three lambs of the ſecond.*

Mr. Lambarde had three wives; firſt, Jane, daughter of George Multon, of St. Cleres, eſq. by whom he left no iſſue; ſecondly, Silveſtria, daughter and heir of Robert Deane, of Halling, in this county, and widow of William Dalyſon, eſq. by whom he had Multon, his only ſurviving ſon and ſucceſſor, and one daughter, Margaret, married to Thomas Godfrey;[c] and thirdly Margaret Reader, by whom he had no iſſue. Sir Multon Lambarde, the ſon, married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Lowe, bart. alderman of London, and dying here, in 1634, was buried in Greenwich church. He left Thomas Lambarde, eſq. his only ſon and heir, who reſided here, and being a great Royaliſt, in the year 1648, was obliged to compound for his eſtate, which had been ſequeſtered, at ſo high a rate, that it occaſioned him to alienate this of Weſtcombe to Hugh Forth;[d] who quickly paſſed it away to Mr. Theophilus Biddulph, of London, third ſon of Michael Biddulph, eſq. of Elmhurſt, near Lichfield, in Staffordſhire.

The family of Biddulph derive themſelves from one Ormus de Guidon, lord of Darlaweſton, who lived in or near the Conqueror's time, ſome of whoſe deſcendants aſſumed the name of Biddulph, from their reſidence at that village in the northern part of Staffordſhire. The Biddulphs bore for their arms, *Vert, an eagle diſplayed argent.*

Theophilus Biddulph, eſq. before-mentioned, reſided at Weſtcombe, and having been firſt knighted, was created a baronet in the 16th year of Charles II. By Suſanna, his wife, daughter of Zachary Highlord, alderman of London, he left Sir Michael Biddulph, bart. who on his father's death, ſucceeded to this

[c] Viſtn. co. Kent, ibid. [d] Philipot, p. 163.

manor, of which he died poſſeſſed in 1718, leaving a ſon and ſeveral daughters, his heirs, ſoon after his death alienated the manor of Weſtcombe to Sir Gregory Page, bart. who died poſſeſſed of it in 1775, and by his will deviſed this, among the reſt of his eſtates, to his nephew, Sir Gregory Turner, bart. of Ambroſden, in the county of Oxford, who has ſince taken the name of Page, and is the preſent owner of it. Since the Biddulphs, this ſeat was inhabited by Charles duke of Bolton, afterwards by the dutcheſs of Athol, then by Mr. Halliday, ſince by Mr. Petrie, and now by William Holmes, eſq. There is a court baron held for this manor.

In the time of Edward the Confeſſor, beſides the manor of Eaſt Greenwich before mentioned, there were *two other manors here.* The one held by earl Harold, the other by one Brixi, both of which came into the poſſeſſion of William the Conqueror, who gave them, as *one manor,* to his half brother Odo, biſhop of Baieux and earl of Kent, and as ſuch it was held of him by the biſhop of Liſieux, in France, at the time Domeſday was taken, anno 1080, where it is thus entered:

*In Dimidio Leſt de Sudtone. In Grenviz hund. Eps Liſiacenſis ten de Epo baiocſi Grenviz. p.* 2. *Solins ſe Defd. Tra. e. . . . . In Dnio Sunt.* 2. *Car. &* 24. *Villi hnt* 4 *Car &* 4. *Bord &* 1 *Cot &* 5. *Servi Ibi.* 4 *Mold de.* 70. *Sol. &* 22. *ac pti. &* 40 *ac paſturæ & Silva* 10 *porc.*

*Com*

*Hi* 2 *Solins T. R. E. fuer.* 2. *m. unu tenuit Herold*

*Simul*

*& aliu Brixi & m Sunt in uno. T. R. E. & poſt valebant* 8 *lib & modo appciant* 12 *lib.*

Which is: *In the half of the lath of* Sudtone *in* Grenviz *hundred, the biſhop of Liſieux holds of the biſhop of Baieux* Grenviz. *It was taxed at two ſulings. The arable land is . . . . . In demeſne there are* 2 *carucates, and* 24 *villeins having* 4 *carucates, and there are* 4 *borderers,*

*derers, and 1 cottager, and 5 ſervants. There are 4 mills of 70 ſhillings value, and 22 acres of meadow, and 40 acres of paſture and wood for the pannage of 10 hogs.*

*Theſe 2 ſulings, in the time of king Edward the Confeſſor, were 2 manors; one earl Herold held, and the other Brixi held, and now they are in one. In the time of Edward the Confeſſor, and afterwards, they were together worth 8l. and now they are rated at 12l.*

This manor moſt probably reverted to the crown on the diſgrace of the biſhop of Baieux, and became part of the royal demeſnes, ſince which it has remained, without interruption, in the poſſeſſion of the royal family of England, becoming a ROYAL PALACE and having been the delight and favourite reſidence of many of our kings and queens.

King Edward III. founded a *religious houſe* adjoining to his palace here. King Henry IV. reſided much at Greenwich, where he made his will, which is dated from his manor of Greenwich, 22d Jan. 1408. In the next reign Thomas Beaufort, youngeſt ſon of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter, by Katherine Swinford, his third wife, obtained from his kinſman, king Henry V. a grant of this manor for his life. He was firſt created earl of Dorſet, and anno 4 Henry V. duke of Exeter. He died at his manor of Greenwich next year, and buried at St. Edmundſbury, as he had directed.[a] Soon after which this manor was granted to Humphry duke of Glouceſter, the king's uncle. In the 11th year of Henry VI. a grant was made to that duke to incloſe two hundred acres of land, paſture, &c. in Greenwich, and to make a park; and in the 15th year of the ſame reign, a like grant was made to the duke, to incloſe two hundred acres more of land, paſture, &c. in Eaſt Greenwich, and to make a park there, to hold in fee; both grants reciting, that part

[a] Philipott, p. 163. Weever, p. 339. Tan. Mon. p. 227. Harl. MSS. No. 203-67. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 126.

of

of the land was parcel of the manor of Eaſt Greenwich, belonging to the priory and convent of Shene, and in the latter grant there is licence given for the duke and Eleanor his wife, their manor of Greenwich to embattle and build with ſtone, and to incloſe and make a ditch and tower within it, and a certain tower within their park, to build and edify.[a]

For it was not lawful for any man to fortify his houſe, or raiſe a tower, or place of defence, without licence from the crown, for fear of inward ſedition; and it was therefore inquirable before the eſcheator, in the 24th article of his office. The word *kernellare*, to embattle, has its derivation from *charneux*, which, in French, ſignifies the indented form of the top of a wall, that has *vent* and *creſt*, commonly called *embattling*, becauſe it was ſerviceable in fight to the defendant within, who might, at the loops or lower places, annoy the enemy, and ſhrowd himſelf under the higher parts of it.

Soon after this the duke new erected the palace here, on the ſpot where the weſt wing of the Royal hoſpital now ſtands, imparked a quantity of land, and built a tower within his park, ſince called Greenwich-caſtle, and now the Obſervatory, (as will be ſhewn below) and ſtiling this manor, from its moſt pleaſant ſituation, *L'Pleazance*, in Latin *Placentia*, which name, however, was not commonly made uſe of till the reign of king Henry VIII. But all theſe came again into the poſſeſſion of the crown on his death, which happened at St. Edmundſbury, in the 25th year of king Henry VI.[b]

King Edward VI. took great delight in this palace, and beſtowed much coſt in finiſhing and enlarging it, and in his 5th year granted it to his queen, Elizabeth, by the deſcription of the lordſhip and

[a] Cott. Rec. p. 619.
[b] Sandford's Gen. Hiſt. p. 309. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 199.

manor

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manor of Greenwich, with the tower of Greenwich, and the parks there, and all lands, privileges, &c. to the manor pertaining, in Greenwich or elſewhere, within the county of Kent, together with all other lands, rents, and ſervices, in this county, which belonged to Humphry, late duke of Glouceſter, to hold for her life, in as ample a manner as the late duke held them.

In this reign a *royal juſt* was performed at Greenwich, on the marriage of Richard duke of York, the king's ſon, with Anne Mowbray, daughter of the duke of Norfolk. In the 23d year of Edward IV. Mary, the king's fifth daughter, died here. She was promiſed in marriage to the king of Denmark, but died before the conſummation of it. This manor, with its appurtenances, coming into the poſſeſſion of king Henry VII. either by the death or impriſonment of queen Elizabeth, he enlarged the buildings, and beautified the houſe with a brick front towards the water ſide, and finiſhed the tower in the park, begun by duke Humphry. He reſided here much; frequently keeping his Chriſtmas in this palace, within his royal manor of Greenwich. King Henry VIII. as he exceeded all former kings in the ſumptuouſneſs of his buildings, ſo he ſpared no coſt to render this palace magnificent. Leland, the antiquarian, who was an eye witneſs of its beauties, thus elegantly deſcribes them, in his Itinirary, vol. ix. p. 16.

" Ecce ut jam niteat locus petitus,
" Tanquam ſidereæ locus cathedræ!
" Quæ faſtigia picta! quæ feneſtræ!
" Quæ turres, vel ad aſtra ſe efferentes!
" Quæ porro viridaria, ac perennes
" Fontes! Flora ſinum occupat venuſta
" Fundens delicias nitentis horti
" Rerum commodus æſtimator ille,
" Ripæ qui variis modis amenæ,
" Nomen contulit eleganter aptum."

Lo!

Lo! with what luſtre ſhines this wiſh'd-for place!
Which ſtar-like might the heavenly manſions grace.
What painted roofs! What windows charm the eye!
What turrets, rivals of the ſtarry ſky!
What conſtant ſprings! what verdant meads beſides!
Where Flora's ſelf in majeſty reſides.
And beauteous all around her, does diſpenſe,
With bounteous hand, her flow'ry influence.
Happy the man whoſe lucky wit could frame,
To ſuit this place, ſo elegant a name,
Expreſſing all its beauties in the ſame.

At this manor of Pleazance, alias Eaſt Greenwich,[a] (as it was now uſually called,) during the above reign, and afterwards, many great feaſts and banquettings were held, feaſts and elections of the Knights of the Garter, royal juſts and challengings, particularly on the 13th of May, in the 7th year of that reign, the marriage of Mary, queen dowager of king Lewis XII. of France, and that moſt accompliſhed lord, Charles duke of Suffolk was publicly ſolemniſed in the church of this palace. Great and ſolemn juſts were performed here on May 20, in the 8th year of that reign; on Shrove-Tueſday, in the 18th year of it; and on the 1ſt of May, in the 38th year of it, anno 1536. On July 7th, anno 9 Henry VIII. in the year 1517, a magnificent banquet was kept here. In 1527, being the 19th year of the ſame reign, the embaſſy ſent by the French king to king Henry VIII, which, that it might correſpond with our court in magnificence, conſiſted of eight perſons of high quality and merit in France, attended by ſix hundred horſe, was received here by the king, at his *manor of Pleazance*, with the greateſt marks of honour, and entertained after a more ſumptuous manner than had ever been ſeen before. In the 25th year of that reign, the lady

[a] Howel's Lond. p. 106. Harl. MSS. No. 69. 369, 13. Sandf. Gen. Hiſt. p. 396. Philipott, p. 162. Cott. Bibl. p. 4.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth (afterwards queen) was chriſtened here; in the 35th, the king kept a *royal Chriſtmas* here, as he had done before in his 3d year; at which time he royally feaſted and delivered (without ranſom) twenty-one of the Scotch nobility, whom he had taken priſoners on the 24th of November before, in battle at Salmon-moſs, near Carliſle.[b]

Many royal perſons have been born in it, and, among others, king Henry VIII. his brother Edmund, king Edward VI. queen Mary, and her ſiſter, queen Elizabeth, and afterwards ſeveral children of James I. Here alſo died that moſt amiable and ever lamented ſovereign, king Edward VI. Queen Elizabeth made ſeveral additions to the buildings, and reſided much here. In the 2d year of whoſe reign, on July 2d, 1559, the *City of London* entertained the Queen at Greenwich with a *muſter*, each company ſending out a number of men at arms, in all fourteen hundred, to her great delight and ſatisfaction, which pleaſed the citizens as much, and created a mutual love and affection between them. On the 1ſt of July they marched out of London in coats of velvet and chains of gold, with guns, morris-pikes, halberts, and flags, over London-bridge, to the duke of Suffolk's park, in Southwark, where they all muſtered before the lord-mayor, and lay abroad in St. George's-fields that night. The next morning they moved towards Greenwich, to the court there; and thence into the park, where they ſtaid till eight o'clock, and then marched down into the lawn, and muſtered in their arms; all the gunners in ſhirts of mail. At five o'clock at night, the queen came into the gallery, over the park gate, with the ambaſſadors, lords, and ladies to a great number. The lord marquis, lord-admiral, lord Dudley, and ſeveral other lords and

[b] Fiddes's Wolſey, p. 428. Harl. MSS. No. 1107, 28. Kilburne, ut ſupra.

knights

knights rode to and fro, to view them, and to ſet the two battles in array, to ſkirmiſh before the queen. Then came the trumpets to blow on each part, the drums beating and the flutes playing. There were given three onſets in every battle; the guns diſcharged on one another, the morris-pikes encountered together with great alarm; each ran to their weapons again, and then they fell together as faſt as they could, in imitation of cloſe fight. All this while the queen, with the reſt of the nobility about her, beheld the ſkirmiſhings and retreats. After all this, Mr. Chamberlain, and ſeveral of the commons of the city, and the wiflers came before the queen, who heartily thanked them and all the city; whereupon the greateſt ſhout was immediately given that ever was heard, with hurling up of caps, &c. and the queen ſhewed herſelf very merry. After this was a running at tilt, and then they all departed home to London. The 10th of the month, the queen being ſtill at Greenwich, and well knowing how much pomps and ſhews, eſpecially military, with her own preſence at them, delighted her ſubjects, and perhaps herſelf too, cauſed a handſome banquetting houſe to be ſet up for herſelf in Greenwich-park, made with fir-poles, and decked with birch branches, and all manner of flowers, both of the field and garden; as roſes, julyflowers, lavender, marygolds, and all manner of ſtrewing herbs and ruſhes. Beſides which, there were tents ſet up for the kitchen, and for the officers againſt the next day, with proviſions laid in of wine, ale, and beer. And there was a place made up for the queen's penſioners, who were to run with ſpears; the challengers were three, the Earl of Ormond, Sir John Perrot, and Mr. North, and there were defendants of equal valour, with lances and ſwords. About five in the afternoon the queen came, with the ambaſſadors, and many lords and ladies, and ſtood over the park-gate, to ſee the exerciſe; and after, the combatants ran, chaſing one another.

ther. After this ſhe came down into the park, and took her horſe, and rode up to the banqueting-houſe, and to the three ambaſſadors; and after that to ſupper. Then followed a maſk, and after it a ſumptuous banquet, and great caſting of fire, and ſhooting of guns, till twelve at night; when the whole ceaſed.[a]

King James erected a new brick-work towards the garden, and walled in the park, and laid the foundation of the *Houſe of Delight* towards the park, (ſince allotted to the rangers of the park,) which Henrietta Maria, wife of king Charles I. finiſhed, and furniſhed ſo magnificently, that it by far ſurpaſſed all other houſes of the kind at that time in England.

On Sunday, May 5, in the third year of king James, the chriſtening of the princeſs Mary was performed with great ſolemnity at the court in Greenwich. In this reign, Henry Howard, earl of Northampton, had a grant of the caſtle in the park, which he enlarged and beautified; and being much taken with its pleaſant ſituation, made it his chief reſidence. He died, unmarried, in the 12th year of this reign.[b]

King Charles I. reſided much at this palace till the year 1641, when he left it, with the fatal reſolution of taking his journey northward; after which, the diſcontents of the times never ſuffered him to ſee it again. On his death, in 1648, it was, with the other royal eſtates, taken poſſeſſion of by the powers then in being; who, though they paſſed an ordinance in 1649, for the ſale of the crown lands, yet they excepted to their own uſe, among other the late king's honours, palaces, and parks, the honour and manor of Eaſt Greenwich; the houſe, called Greenwich houſe; the buildings, called the Queen's new buildings, with the gardens, orchards, &c. belonging to them; the park adjoining, commonly called Greenwich-park, and the

[a] Strype's Annals, vol. i. p. 193, 194. [b] Philipott, p. 162. Collins's Peerage, vol. iv. p. 131. Rym. Fœd. vol. xix. p. 527.

caſtle

caſtle within it, known by the name of Greenwich-caſtle, which was then accounted a place of ſome ſtrength and conſequence; for when the parliament thought proper to ſecure for their uſe the ſeveral forts and places of ſtrength on each ſide the river Thames, they paſſed an ordinance in 1642, for referring to the Committee for the Militia in London, to take proper courſe for ſecuring this caſtle, with the blockhouſes of Graveſend and Blackheath.[a] The extent of the royal palace may ſtill be traced, by the names of ſeveral ſtreets and places in the town of Greenwich, called in the old pariſh books, the King's Houſe and Barne, King's-barnes, Queen's-barnes, King's mews, Queen's-mews, the Court, the Palace, and the Palace yard.

But the neceſſities of the commonwealth, ſometime after, requiring money for defraying the expences of the navy, their houſe of commons, in 1652, reſolved, that Greenwich houſe, park, and lands ſhould be immediately ſold.[b]

Particulars were accordingly made out for the ſale of the hobby ſtables, and other trifling parts of the royal garden and palace; but no further proceedings as to the reſt ſeem to have been had at this time.

In 1654, the ſub-committee for the revenue finding, that the houſe and park of Eaſt Greenwich, and other palaces of the late king, which had been ſurveyed and valued, then remained unſold, after ſolemn debates, declared, that they were fit places for the accommodation of the lord protector, and, therefore, were not to be valued at any groſs ſum; but might be allowed toward the revenue, as returned in the ſurvey, at the yearly rent of 1254l. 13s. 4d. The beautiful grove under Greenwich caſtle had been, ſome time before this, demoliſhed in the general deſtruction made of the royal parks, woods, and foreſts.

[a] Scob. Acts, p. 63.
[b] Journals of the Houſe of Commons, vol. vii. p. 203.

On

On the reſtoration of king Charles II. in 1660, this manor and palace, with the park, and other royal demeſnes here, returned again to the crown.

After which the king, finding the old palace greatly decayed by time, and the want of neceſſary reparations during the uſurpation, ſoon after his return to his dominions, formed the deſign of erecting a moſt magnificent one at this place, and completed one end of a ſtately pile of building, of free ſtone, (now the weſt wing of the hoſpital,) at the expence of 36,000l. but proceeded no further towards finiſhing it. He likewiſe enlarged, planted, and walled round the park, as at preſent, and erected a *royal obſervatory* on the top of the hill in the park, where duke Humphrey's tower ſtood, and furniſhed it with all kinds of mathematical inſtruments for aſtronomical obſervations, and allotted it for the uſe and reſidence of an *aſtonomer royal*, whom he placed here, with a handſome ſalary for his maintenance. After which this place was ſucceſſively the reſidence of thoſe celebrated aſtronomers, Mr. Flamſted, Dr. Halley, and Dr. Bradley; from Mr. Flamſted this obſervatory took the name of Flamſted houſe, by which it is now commonly known. It is at preſent in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Nevil Maſkeline, F.R.S and late fellow of Trinity-college, Cambridge, who was appointed aſtronomer royal to his Majeſty in 1765, on the death of Dr. Nathaniel Bliſs.

In this unfiniſhed ſtate the palace remained till king William's time; who, being deſirous of promoting the naval ſtrength of the kingdom, gave it, with ſeveral edifices and ſome adjoining grounds, as AN HOSPITAL for the uſe of thoſe Engliſh ſeamen of his royal navy, and their children, who, by age, wounds, or other accidents, ſhould be diſabled from further ſervice at ſea. For which purpoſe the king and queen iſſued their letters patent, in the 6th year of their reign, anno 1694; by which they granted to Sir John Somers, lord keeper, ſeveral of the great officers of ſtate, and others, a par-

cel of ground in Eaſt Greenwich, being part of their Majeſties' manor of Eaſt Greenwich, containing eight acres and upwards; and the capital meſſuage, lately built by their royal uncle, king Charles II. and ſtill remaining unfiniſhed, commonly called the palace of Greenwich, and ſeveral other edifices and buildings, ſtanding upon part of the ground: bounded by the river Thames on the north, to hold, as of their manor of Eaſt Greenwich, in free and common *ſocage*, by fealty, only to the intent, that the premiſes ſhould be converted into an hoſpital, for the above purpoſes; and that as ſoon as the buildings ſhould be finiſhed, and the king and queen, ſhould eſtabliſh a corporation, or *body politique*, for the government of it; then to convey the premiſes to ſuch body politique, which being afterwards eſtabliſhed, the premiſes were, accordingly, veſted in it.

The year after, the king again (the queen being dead) iſſued his letters patent, for a commiſſion, which ſet forth, that nothing would more effectually contribute to the trade, navigation, and naval ſtrength of this realm, than the making ſome competent proviſion, that ſeamen, who, by age, wounds, or other accidents, ſhould become diſabled for further ſervice at ſea, and ſhould not be in a condition to maintain themſelves comfortably, might not fall under hardſhips and miſeries, but might be ſupported at the public charge, and that the children of ſuch diſabled ſeamen, and the widows and children of ſuch as ſhould be ſlain in the king's ſervice, might in ſome reaſonable manner be provided for and educated.

To effect which, therefore, he commiſſioned George, hereditary prince of Denmark, ſeveral of the great officers of ſtate for the time being, and a great number more of the nobility, the biſhops, the aldermen of London, the commiſſioners of the navy, and other gentlemen, to meet together for the executing of this commiſſion, and to conſider of proper methods for performing

performing it; and he directed them in what manner ſuch of the preſent buildings, as ſhould be thought fit to ſtand, might be fitted and prepared for the uſe and ſervice of the hoſpital; to prepare models of the building, with ſuch ſchemes and draughts as might beſt explain them; to draw up a charter of foundation, and ſuch ſtatutes and orders as might be proper for it, and to receive the king's yearly allowance towards this building, and all gifts and ſubſcriptions, that any other well-diſpoſed perſons ſhould contribute towards it.

After this commiſſion, an act of parliament paſſed for the more effectual forwarding and perfecting this excellent deſign, and providing a ſufficient endowment for it; in which, after ſeveral regulations, in regard to the admittance of ſeamen into it, it provided, that every ſeaman, who ſhould ſerve his Majeſty, in any of his ſhips, ſhould allow out of his wages ſixpence per month, for the better ſupport, and to augment the revenues of it.[a]

On queen Anne's acceſſion to the throne, there had been expended upwards of fifty thouſand pounds on theſe buildings, and much more was wanting to finiſh them; however, they were in ſuch forwardneſs, that in 1705, one hundred diſabled ſeamen were taken into the hoſpital. Queen Anne iſſued her commiſſion in her third year, for the carrying on and finiſhing theſe buildings, for ſtating the accounts of them, and for providing for ſuch other matters as ſhould be thought neceſſary, with regard to the acts of parliament then, or that ſhould afterwards be made, for the encouragement of ſeamen.

In July 1708, the hoſpital was ſo far advanced as to have three hundred and fifty poor and diſabled ſeamen in it, the income of it then being computed at twelve thouſand pounds per annum; of which one half was

[a] Strype's Stow's Survey, book i. p. 216.

allowed to the yearly maintenance of the poor ſeamen, and the other half towards the buildings.

In the tenth year of queen Anne, an act paſſed for the better collecting and receiving the revenues granted for the ſupport of this royal hoſpital, and for the further benefit of it. By which other ſeamen, though not in the ſervice of the crown, were made liable to the payment of ſixpence per month, for the better ſupport of it; and as no ſeaman had, as yet, been admitted, but ſuch as ſerved in the royal navy, for the future any ſeaman might be admitted, who ſhould produce an authentic certificate of his being wounded, maimed, or hurt in defending any ſhip of her Majeſty's ſubjects againſt the enemy, or in taking any ſhip, and of being diſabled by it for ſea ſervice.

King George, in the firſt year of his reign, iſſued a commiſſion, for carrying on, building, and providing for this hoſpital; therein revoking and determining the former commiſſion or letters patent, and their continuance, and removing the former governors; and being extremely deſirous to promote and carry it on, he nominated, and appointed his ſon, George Auguſtus, prince of Wales, and the ſeveral great officers of ſtate for the time being, with a great number beſides, to be commiſſioners for this hoſpital, to meet together for the execution of it; giving them power to proceed and finiſh the building, to ſtate the account of the works, and to make payment from time to time. To provide for the maintenance of ſuch perſons as ſhould be neceſſary, with regard to the acts of parliament for encouraging of ſeamen.

That a general court ſhould be held quarterly, or oftener, if found neceſſary, at which all officers for the hoſpital ſhould be recommended to the lord high admiral, who ſhould appoint all of them, except the governor and treaſurer, all which officers, or others, to be admitted for the future, ſhould be ſeafaring perſons; and that the general court, with the aſſiſtance of the

the attorney and ſolicitor general, ſhould forthwith prepare a charter and ſtatutes for the perpetual government of the hoſpital; that four and twenty perſons ſhould be appointed, who ſhall be ſtiled Directors, with powers to carry on the building, to ſtate the accounts for the works; to make contracts for proviſions and other neceſſaries for the houſe; and to take in perſons by the approbation of the lord high admiral; that their proceedings ſhould be laid before the general court, and the directors receive twenty ſhillings for every actual attendance, to be paid out of the revenue of the hoſpital. The lord high admiral, or general court, when aſſembled, to nominate and fill up the number of directors. That the government of the houſe ſhould be in the governor, with a council of officers, to be appointed by the lord high admiral;[a] and laſtly, the commiſſioners to finiſh all matters left undetermined by the late commiſſion.

King George III. by his charter, in 1775, incorporated the governor of this hoſpital, and others named in it, as one body politic and corporate, by the name of *The Commiſſioners and Governors of the Royal Hoſpital for Seamen at Greenwich in the County of Kent*, and granted, that they ſhould be governors of the goods, revenues, &c. belonging to it; and that they and their ſucceſſors, by the ſame name, ſhould have perpetual ſucceſſion. Thus has the conſtant attention of the crown and legiſlature to this noble charity ſurmounted every difficulty, which the infant ſtate of it laboured under.

The royal and national bounty have been from time to time generouſly extended to it; for there have been ſeveral private benefactions as well as public made to this hoſpital; a liſt of them, from the foundation, according to the tables hung up at the entrance of the hall, amount to upwards of 58,200l. of

[a] Strype's Stow's Survey, book i. p. 217. Ibid. App. p. 94.

the latter, in particular, queen Anne, in her 4th year, was enabled by parliament to beſtow the effects of William Kidd, a notorious pirate, to the uſe of this hoſpital; king George II. was enabled, by ſeveral acts, paſſed to allot ten thouſand pounds out of the public ſupplies, for the better maintenance of the ſeamen in it, worn out and become decripped in the ſervice of their country, and the ſhares of prizes, not demanded in three years, have, in the ſeveral wars of thoſe reigns, been alloted by parliament to this charity. But the moſt munificent, even of the royal benefactions, was made in the 8th year of George II. when the rents and profits of the forfeited eſtates of the earl of Derwentwater and Charles Radcliffe, eſq. attainted for rebellion in 1715, then amounting to upwarde of ſix thouſand pounds per annum (the income of which is now increaſed to near thirty thouſand pounds per annum) were given by parliament towards the buildings of this hoſpital and the ſupport of the ſeamen in it. In the 22d year of the ſame reign, the abſolute fee and inheritance of them were, by parliament, veſted in truſtees for the like uſes,[a] Since which, by an act of the 16th year of his preſent majeſty, theſe, as well as all other lands and eſtates held in truſt for the benefit of this hoſpital, were veſted in the commiſſioners and governors of it, incorporated by letters patent.

Such a ſeries of care and liberality extended towards this favourite object of the Britiſh nation, could hardly fail of raiſing it to that wiſhed-for proſperity we ſee it in at preſent. By degrees, this royal hoſpital is now become not only one of the moſt magnificent in its buildings, but the moſt extenſive charity of its kind at this time in Europe.

The yearly revenues of it are ſo greatly advanced of late years, not only from the improvements of

[a] This act was repealed by that of 16 Geo. III.

their

their eſtates, but from the conſiderable increaſe of the duty of ſixpence per month, which is ſtopped out of the pay of all ſailors, whether in the royal navy or merchants ſervice, and delivered in at the Sixpenny Receiver's-office, on Tower-hill; and from the great increaſe of the royal navy, and of our trade and navigation in general, now amounts to a large and very conſiderable ſum, inſomuch that they enable the governors to maintain in it upwards of two thouſand three hundred old or diſabled ſeamen, and about one hundred and fifty boys, the ſons of ſeamen, who are inſtructed in navigation, and bred up for the ſervice of the royal navy; and there are many out-penſioners, the ſame as at Chelſea, each of whom receives ſeven pounds per annum.

The governors are in number about one hundred, conſiſting of the nobility, great officers of ſtate, and perſons in high poſts under the king. The chief officers of it are—the Governor, the Lieutenant-governor, the Treaſurer, four captains, eight Lieutenants, two Chaplains, a Phyſician and Surgeon, the Clerk of the Cheque, the Secretary, and the Auditor; beſides a number of clerks and other inferior officers, who have each a handſome ſalary, proportionable to their rank and ſervice; and there are upwards of one hundred and fifty nurſes, the widows of ſeamen, for the care of the penſioners and the children. Each of the mariners has a weekly allowance of ſeven loaves, weighing ſixteen ounces each, three pounds of beef, two of mutton, a pint of peas, a pound and a quarter of cheeſe, two ounces of butter, fourteen quarts of beer, and one ſhilling per week tobacco money. The tobacco money of the boatſwains is two ſhillings and ſixpence a week each; that of their mates, one ſhilling and ſixpence, and that of the other officers in proportion to their rank. Beſides which, each common penſioner receives, once in two year, a ſuit of blue cloaths, a hat, three pair of ſtockings, two pair of ſhoes, five

neckcloths, three ſhirts, and two night-caps. The governor's ſalary is 1000l. per annum, the lieutenant-governor's, 400l. each captain's, 230l. each lieutenant's 135l. and ſo on in proportion.

King Edward III. at the inſtance of Sir John Norbury, his treaſurer, in the 51ſt year of his reign, anno 1376, founded a *religious houſe* here, for the order of Minorites or Franciſcans, commonly called Grey Friars, which was made an alien priory, ſubject to the abbey of Ghent, in Flanders. But when king Henry V. in his ſecond year, ſuppreſſed the alien priories throughout England, this at Greenwich became involved in the general ruin, and the religious were expelled from hence.

King Edward IV. perhaps by the perſuaſion of his ſiſter Margaret, dutcheſs of Burgundy, reſolved to found a *religious houſe* or *convent* of the order of Obſervants here, contiguous to his palace, moſt probably in the very place of the former one; and the Obſervants being only a more reformed branch of the Minorites, adds ſome ſtrength to this conjecture. Though the king did not live to put the whole of this deſign in execution, yet, about the year 1480, he granted them a reſidence here, with a little chantry and chapel, of the Holy Croſs, for their devotions, which pope Sixtus IV. that year, gave them leave to accept of. They remained in this ſtate till king Henry VII. in his 1ſt year, by his letters patent, reciting, that king Edward IV. had deſigned to found a convent of the order of Obſervants, and had alloted for that purpoſe a parcel of his land, with ſome antient houſes built on it, in the town of Eaſt Greenwich, contiguous to his manſion or palace, founded, in proſecution of ſo pious an intent, this religious houſe at the town of Eaſt Greenwich. Soon after this he new built their houſe for them, from the foundation, which

ſtood

ſtood adjoining to the weſt ſide of the palace, where the road, now known by the name of the Friars-road, points out its ſituation.[a] King Henry VIII. was at firſt a great admirer and favourer of the Obſervants, till they ſo openly and warmly eſpouſed the ſide of queen Catharine, in the cauſe of her divorce. The queen had always retained the higheſt opinion of the piety and ſanctity of theſe friars, inſomuch, that ſhe had one of them, father John Foreſt, for her confeſſor, and uſed, while at Greenwich, to riſe at midnight to the divine offices, and be preſent in the Franciſcan church, during the time the friars were ſinging their matins and lauds. This oppoſition to the king's deſires enraged him ſo much, that from henceforward theſe friars were continually perſecuted and diſperſed; ſome died in priſon, others were executed under imputation of treaſon, and others forced to fly, till the whole body of them was reduced almoſt to nothing. On the 11th of Aug, 1534, in his 26th year, the king cauſed this houſe to be diſſolved,[b] at which time the whole order was ſuppreſſed throughout England. But, after near twenty years baniſhment, the few remaining Franciſcans, by the acceſſion of queen Mary to the throne, began to appear again in public, and returning to Greenwich, began to form a community here again, and as they had been the firſt expelled, ſo were they the firſt reſtored by king Philip and queen Mary, in 1555, when the queen new founded their monaſtery, and cauſed it to be repaired at her own coſt, in gratitude for the ſignal reſolution they had ſhewn in aſſerting her mother's cauſe, and brought in as many of the fraternity as could be

[a] Philipott, p. 163. Weever, p. 339. Tanner, p. 227. Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 1035. Hiſt. of Eng. Franciſcans, p. 207. Lamb. Peramb. p. 473.—In this church of the Friars Minors was buried Elizabeth, ſiſter of William, the firſt lord Sandys, and wife of Thomas lord D'Arcy, of the North, who died in 1529. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 372. [b] Rapin, vol. i. p. 804.

found,

found, and recruited them with new ones to a competent number. But they did not continue long here; for queen Elizabeth, in the ſecond year of her reign, anno 1559, ſuppreſſed this monaſtery again; and the friars being put out from their houſe were obliged to fly into Flanders, Germany, and other parts beyond ſea.[a] After which the ſeveral buildings of this convent were, from time to time, made uſe of as part of the royal palace, and continued ſo till, in the *interregnum*, after the death of king Charles I. they were ſold, with ſome other parts of the palace, in the year 1652, by the powers then in being, as has been already mentioned, under the deſcription of the priory buildings, parcel of Greenwich houſe, with a ſtill-houſe, and the priory garden, to Richard Babington.[b] Theſe premiſes returning to the crown again on the reſtoration of king Charles II. in 1660, continued part of the royal palace till king William, in the 6th year of his reign, gave them, with the reſt of the palace here, as an hoſpital for maimed and wounded ſeamen, part of the ſcite of which remains at this time, as has been already fully taken notice of before.

## *CHARITIES.*

Mr. Lambarde, the perambulator, in the year 1574, built and founded an alms-houſe or hoſpital in this pariſh, called queen Elizabeth's-college, for the benefit of twenty poor people, eight of whom to be choſen from this pariſh of Greenwich, with an allowance of 18d. per week, and a load of faggots monthly, to each; and intruſted the care of it to the Drapers-company, to which he was otherwiſe a good benefactor.

Ralph Rokeby, of Lincoln's-inn, eſq. maſter of St. Catharine's, &c. dying in 1596, among other charitable legacies, bequeathed 100l. to this college, ſo that now the penſioners, beſides meat, drink, and lodging, are allowed 1s. 6d. a week, with a gown every year, linen once in two years, and hats once in four years.

There is another College, which ſtands at the end of the town, fronting the Thames, having two acres of garden-ground belong-

a Aug. Off. Partic. Temp. Interreg. Roll, H. 7. Hiſt. Eng. Franciſ. p. 254.
b Kilb. p. 115. Ibid. book iii. p. 248. book v. p. 55. Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 58.

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ing to it, for the maintenance of twenty decayed old houſekeepers, and a maſter; of which twenty, twelve are to be of the pariſh of Greenwich, and the other eight are to be alternately choſen from Snottiſham and Caſtle Riſing, in Norfolk. This is called the Duke of Norfolk's-college, though it was founded and endowed, in 1613, by Henry Howard, earl of Northampton, the duke of Norfolk's brother, and by him committed to the care of the Mercers' company, by the name of Trinity-college, in Greenwich. It has a handſome chapel, to which the Earl's body and monument were removed in 1696, by order of the Mercers' company, from the ruinous church in Dover-caſtle. See Newcourt's Rep. vol. i. p. 693.

There are two Charity-ſchools in this pariſh; one founded by Sir William Boreman, in 1673, and intruſted to the care of the Drapers' company, for twenty boys, born in this town, who are cloathed, boarded, and taught, for which uſe there is a large houſe appropriated for the maſter and ſcholars.

The other by Mr. JOHN ROAN, who by will, in 1643, left an eſtate in houſes near the church here, of 95l. per annum, in truſt with the vicar, churchwardens, and overſeers of this pariſh, for teaching twenty boys, born in this town, reading, writing, and arithmetic, and allowing 2l. for each boy's cloathing, until they ſhould be of fifteen years of age, which eſtate is now veſted in truſtees, and now of the produce of 173l. 14s. per annum.

In the year 1700, there was a Charity-ſchool ſet up here for girls, where the children were ſet to ſpin, and to make their own cloaths, both linen and woollen. It was ſupported by voluntary ſubſcriptions, amounting to about 60l. and had the gift of 100l. belonging to it, and one chaldron of coals yearly.

JOHN BAKER by will, 1670, gave 50l. to the poor, as did ELISHA BAKER, 70l. in 1674, both ſums veſted in truſtees; of which 80l. was directed by a commiſſion of charitable uſes, to be laid out towards the building of the free-ſchool, and a rent of 4l. per annum reſerved, to be paid towards Roan's charity.

Dr. BRYAN DUPPA, biſhop of Wincheſter, who died in 1662, was a good benefactor to this pariſh. Biog. Brit. vol. iii. p. 1324.

REV. THOMAS PLUME by will, 1704, gave two houſes, in Deptford, to cloath and teach two boys in Roan's ſchool for ever, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 2l. per annum; and likewiſe four alms-houſes in Greenwich, for the uſe of the poor, but they have many years ſince fallen down.

MARK COTTLE by will gave, for the benefit of Roan's-ſchool, and teaching the children there, 100l. to be laid out in lands and tenements, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 6l. per annum.

..... SWEETE by will gave to the ſame ſchool, the amount in money of 123l. 5s. 2d. Eaſt India annuities, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 3l. 13s. 10d. per annum.

WILLIAM HATCLIFFE by will, in 1620, gave to the poor of Greenwich, Lewiſham, and Lee, i. e. two-fourth parts to the poor

of

of this pariſh, a moiety of ſeveral houſes and lands in Greenwich, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 45l. 3s. per annum.

WILLIAM STANTON by will, in 1610, gave to the poor of this pariſh, and of the college erected by William Lambarde, 40s. payable out of a houſe in Church-ſtreet, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 14l. per annum.

WILLIAM RIPPIER by will, in 1577, gave to the poor and needy people of this pariſh, reſident in it, a houſe, at Garden-ſtairs, in Greenwich, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 16l. pe annum.

THOMAS WARE by will, in 1612, gave to the uſe or the poor of this pariſh, the moiety of a houſe in Lewiſham, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 10s. per annum.

WILLIAM CORRY by will, in 1625, gave to the poor of this pariſh, one-third of the rent of a houſe in it, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 1l. 16s. 8d. per annum.

JOANE TALLIS, in 1587, gave by will to Lambarde's-college, a rent charge out of a houſe in Greenwich, veſted in truſtees, of the produce of 10s. per annum.

NICHOLAS SMITHIES by will, in 1692, gave 20l. to purchaſe 20s. per annum, to be given to the poor inhabitants. Not known in whom veſted, but of the produce of 20s. per annum.

SIR WILLIAM HOOKER by deed, in 1691, gave a rent charge of the produce of 6l. per annum, out of a meſſuage in Greenwich, now unknown, to be diſtributed among poor widows of this pariſh, but which has not been received for many years.

NICHOLAS WIGSELL by will, in 1720, gave an annuity, charged on a houſe in Turnpike-lane, to be diſtributed among the poor inhabitants of this pariſh, in bread, on Candlemas-day yearly, now of the annual produce of 6l. and received by the churchwardens.

JOHN MASSINGER by will, in 1715, gave, for the relief of decayed houſekeepers and other indigent perſons, pariſhoners of Greenwich, 20s. each, towards the expence of meeting yearly, and 10s. for a ſermon annually, which charity is veſted in Old South Sea annuities, to the amount of 1533l. 12s. of the annual produce of 46l.

ABRAHAM COLFE by will, in 1656, gave an eſtate to the Leatherſellers company, to diſtribute two-penny wheaten loaves to the poor of this pariſh every Sunday, and gave a right to this pariſh to ſend ten ſcholars, to be educated at the free-grammar ſchool at Lewiſham, founded by him.

JOHN WARDELL by will, in 1656, gave the ſum of 2s. 6d. to be laid out in bread, and diſtributed every Sunday to fifteen poor widows of this pariſh, charged on a meſſuage in Walbrook, veſted in the Grocers' company, now of the annual produce of 46l.

WILLIAM RAINE by will, in 1766, gave for the relief of poor people of this pariſh, 20s. a year each, iſſuing out of 425l. 4 per cent.

cent. Annuities, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 17l.

ALICE CLEMENTS by will, in 1710, gave 200l. South Sea annuities, for the cloathing of ſix poor widows of this pariſh yearly, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 6l.

PETER WATTON gave, by will, 40s. per annum, to the eight houſes of Greenwich poor, in queen Elizabeth's college, and 5l. 10s. yearly to be diſtributed among the poor at Greenwich, being 250l. Old South Sea annuities, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 7l. 10s.

WILLIAM MACGILL by will, in 1775, gave 600l. 3 per cent. reduced Annuities, for the cloathing of poor widows of this pariſh yearly, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 18l.

DENNIS CHAPPEL, by will, gave 5l. to defray the expences of the receiver yearly, and the remainder to be diſtributed annually and equally among the poor of queen Elizabeth's college, the warden excepted, which gift is veſted in truſtees.

Sir GREGORY PAGE, bart. who died in 1775, by his will, bequeathed the ſum of 400l. to the poor of the pariſh of Eaſt Greenwich, where he lies buried.

GREENWICH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* of Rocheſter and the *deanry* of Dartford. The church was, from the earlieſt account of time, an appendage to the manor of Greenwich, and as ſuch was given by Elthruda, king Alfred's niece, to the abbey of Ghent, which grant was ſaid to have been renewed and confirmed, at the inſtance of archbiſhop Dunſtan, by king Edgar, anno 964, as it was by king Edward the Confeſſor in 1040, with ſeveral rights and privileges belonging to it, and all cimeteries, tithes, rents in fields and woods, in meadows and paſtures, rivers, pools, fiſheries, fiſhings, mills, and in all its appurtenances.[a]

William the Conqueror again confirmed this grant to that abbey, as did ſeveral of his ſucceſſors, particularly Henry I. who, with the manor, confirmed to it *this church*, and the cimetery, and all lands and tenements belonging to it, together with the tithes of *Andredeſwald*, with its cuſtoms and rents, and all its appurtenances, as the charters of king Edward, and of king William his father, witneſſed.[b]

[a] Strype's Stow's Survey, book v. p. 45. Environs of Lond. vol. iii. p. 68. Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 900.

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The church of *Eſt Grenewich* was appropriated by Benedict, biſhop of Rocheſter, to the convent and abbot of Ghent, after the death of maſter Nicholas, then rector of it; which grant was confirmed by biſhop Richard, one of his ſucceſſors, in 1239, maſter Nicholas being ſtill living.

King Edward III. in his 17th year, directed his writ to the biſhop of Rocheſter, requiring him to return the names of all aliens beneficed within his dioceſe, and the names of their benefices, and who of them were reſident on them. To which the biſhop made return, that the abbot and convent of Ghent poſſeſſed, to their own proper uſe and behoof, the churches of Lewiſham and *Eſt Grenewich*, and the temporals annexed to them in thoſe pariſhes, and that brother William Sergotz, the proctor of the abbot and convent reſided there. A writ for the like purpoſe was iſſued in the 20th year of that reign, when the biſhop made return, that the abbot and convent poſſeſſed, to their own proper uſe, the church of *Eſt Grenewiche*, taxed at xx marcs, but that the religious were not reſident in them.

The parliament, at Leiceſter, in the 2d year of king Henry V. ſuppreſſing all the alien priories, the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of Ghent, and this church, as part of them, became veſted in the crown, where it ſtaid only till next year, when the king ſettling the manor of Greenwich on his new founded priory of Shene, this church, as an appendage, paſſed along with it at the ſame time.

In the regiſter of John Langdon, biſhop of Rocheſter, in the 13th year of king Henry VI. it appears, that the prior and convent of Shene, holding the churches of *Leveſham* and *Eſt Grenwych* appropriate, in Rocheſter dioceſe, paid to the biſhop a penſion of forty ſhillings yearly at Michaelmas.

King Henry VIII. obtained the poſſeſſion of this church from the priory of Shene, in exchange, in his

23d

23d year, when John Joburne the prior, and the convent of that place, by deed, that year, granted to the king their manors of *Lewiſham* and *Eſt Grenewich*, with their appurtenances, and the advowſons and patronages of the churches, vicarages, and rectories of thoſe pariſhes. Since which the advowſon of the vicarage of Greenwich ſeems to have continued, without any interruption, in the poſſeſſion of the crown to the preſent time. This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 21l. os. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 2s.[a] In the commiſſion of enquiry into the value of church livings, in 1650, which iſſued from the court of Chancery, it was returned, that Eaſt Greenwich was a vicarage, with one houſe, and an acre and one rood of glebe land, one Mr. John Sterne enjoying it. The vicar now receives the tithes of rods and reeds, of all fruits, and of herbage or paſture ground. He receives likewiſe a penſion of 5l. 2s. 6d. yearly, in conſideration of the tithe for the park.

The rectory or parſonage, after the exchange made in the 23d year of king Henry VIII. remained in the poſſeſſion of the crown till the 28th year of that reign, when the king granted it, as has been already mentioned above, in the deſcription of the manor of Old Court, in this pariſh, among other premiſes, to his ſervant, Richard Long, for life, after which it paſſed with that manor, under the ſame grants, till king Edward VI. in his 5th year, granted them to Thomas Darcy, lord Darcy of Chiche, for life, without any account of rent whatſoever, with all the profits, advantages, and emoluments belonging to them.

Theſe tithes, together with the manor of Old Court, parcel of the honour of Eaſt Greenwich, the parſonage-houſe, and ſundry other premiſes, late belonging to the crown, were ſold by the truſtees, ap-

[a] Reg. Roff. p. 126, 127, 136. Tan. Mon. p. 544. Ord. Vic. Regiſt. Hamon de Heth. Ep. Roff. Rymer's Fœd. vol. iv. p. 407. Bacon. Lib. Regis.

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pointed by parliament, in 1649, for the ſale of the lands belonging to the late king, to Robert Titchborne. But they returned again to the crown on king Charles II.'s reſtoration, and have ſince paſſed, in like manner as the manor of Old Court before mentioned.

The *church* was dedicated to St. Alphege, archbiſhop of Canterbury, who is ſaid to have been ſlain by the Danes, in the year 1011, on the very ſpot where this church was afterwards built. By length of time, the building became ſo ruinous, that about midnight, on Tueſday, Nov. 28, 1710, the roof fell in. Soon after which, in the 9th of queen Anne, when the act of parliament paſſed for building the fifty new churches within the city of London and its ſuburbs, it was expreſsly provided in it, that one of the new churches ſhould be in the pariſh of Greenwich. The commiſſioners, under this act, ſoon afterwards began to erect a *new church* here, which is a handſome ſtone ſtructure, with a cupola ſteeple, and being finiſhed, it was conſecrated on Sept. 29, 1718, by Dr. Francis Atterbury, biſhop of Rocheſter. In this church it was inſiſted, that the king had a right to a pew, which was agreed to by a veſtry, held for that purpoſe. An act paſſed in the 25th year of king George II. to enable the pariſhioners to depoſite corpſe in the vaults or arches under the church, and to aſcertain the fees to be paid for them.

*In the old church*, among others, in the chancel, is a monument of a man in armour, kneeling at a deſk, with eight ſons behind him, and a woman kneeling likewiſe, with ſeven daughters behind her, for Sarah, wife of Francis Heiton, ob. 1600, ætat. 38. A monument on the ſouth ſide of the choir, for William Hatlecliffe, deſcended from thoſe of that name, in Lincolnſhire, ob. unmarried, 1620, ætat. 57. *In the chancel*, a braſs plate for Thomas Gallys and Joan his wife; againſt the ſouth wall, a braſs plate, with the figures

figures of a man and woman kneeling, for Anthony Lyle and his wife, which Anthony was gentleman-uſher and daily waiter to queen Elizabeth, ob. 1579; againſt the *eaſt wall*, a monument for Anne Newton, daughter of Sir Henry Newton, and dame Catherine his wife, ob. 1600, ætat. 17. Col. Rich. Oxenden, 1697, ætat. 84, and Sarah his wife, 1700, ætat. 78; within *the rails*, three flat ſtones, with braſs plates, one for Rich. Bower, gent. of the chapel, and maſter of the children to king Henry VIII. Edward VI. queen Mary and Elizabeth, ob. 1561; another has a figure of a man in the dreſs of the time, a chain of gold over his right ſhoulder, and a mace and crown, with the queen's ſupporters, on his breaſt, for John Whytte, gent. one of the queen's footmen, ob. 1579; the third for Henry Traifford, eſq. clerk of the green cloth to queen Elizabeth, ob. 1585; Edward, ſon of Francis and Catharine Bertie, ob. 1588, æt. 27. A table with coats of arms and quarterings for John St. Amand, eſq. of Nottinghamſhire, ob. 1664, ætat. 70, together with John his eldeſt ſon and two children. In the ſouth iſle, in the *eaſt wall*, a monument, with the half figure of a man in his alderman's gown, for Sir William Hooker, of Eaſt Greenwich, and Letitia, his firſt wife, daughter of Francis Coppinger, eſq. of Middleſex, he was lord-mayor in 1674, by her he had three ſons and four daughters; his ſecond wife was Suſanna, daughter of Sir Tho. Bendiſh, bt. of Eſſex, ob. 1697, ætat. 85; againſt the *ſouth wall*, formerly ſtood the monument of that learned antiquary, William Lambarde, eſq. removed to Sevenoke as has been already mentioned. Memorials on ſtones for the eldeſt daughter of William lord Sherrard, baron of Letrim, ob. 1648; for Heſter, daughter and heir of Wm. Crayford, eſq. ob. 1654; for Catharine, late wife of Marmaduke Moor, eſq. ob. 1667; for Anne, widow of Sir Wm. Tufton, bart. daughter of Cecil Cave, eſq. of Leiceſterſhire, ob. 1649. At the weſt end of the *ſouth iſle*,

monuments for Sir John Clarke, ob. 1680; and Anne Denew, ob. 1665, in the church yard, over the eaſt door. This door was rebuilt by the feoffees of Wm. Stanton, a good benefactor to this church, the poor of the town, and poor of Lambarde's-college, by giving a perpetuity of 40s. per annum to each of them. An inſcription over the body of Thomas Hixon, eſq. of Greenwich, wardrobe-keeper to queen Elizabeth and king James I. he married Margaret, daughter of Tho. Manley, ſecond ſon of Tho. Manley, eſq. of Cheſhire, and had five ſons and two daughters; his ſon, Humphry Manley, eſq. of Greenwich, was afterwards keeper of the ſtanding wardrobe there, and married Mary, daughter of John Bradſhaw, of Leiceſterſhire. An inſcription on a tomb for Wm. Boreman, eſq. ſervant to queen Elizabeth, king James and king Charles I. ſixty years, ob. 1646, ætat. 82; for Jane his wife, and Suſanna and Jane, their daughters, and Dulcibella Boreman, ob. 1675. By the great north door, inſcriptions for ſeveral of the Warners, and in the eaſt church yard for Suſanna, wife of Sir Robert Robinſon.

In the *new church*, there are no memorials but at the eaſt end are two mural monuments, one for Sir Henry Sanderſon, ob. 1760, ætat. 15, ſon of Sir Hen. Sanderſon, bart. of Coombe, by Charlotte his third wife, daughter of Sir Rich. Gough, of Warwickſhire, the laſt heir of his name and family; for Sir Robert Robinſon, ob. 1714, ætat. 84, and for his two wives; the other monument for Sir James Creed, of this pariſh, ob. 1762, ætat. 67, and Mary his wife, and ſeveral of his children, who lie in a vault underneath.[a]

## *CHURCH OF GREENWICH.*

| PATRONS, *Or by whom preſented.* | RECTORS. |
|---|---|
| *Abbot and Convent of Ghent*..... | *Richard* (in the time of biſhop Gilbert de Glanvill, who died in 1214.) |

[a] See the monuments and inſcriptions at large, in Reg. Roff. p. 955.

PATRONS,

| PATRONS, &c. | RECTORS. |
|---|---|
| *Abbot and Convent of Ghent*..... | *Nicholas*, rector at the time of the appropriation in 1239. |
| PATRONS, &c. | VICARS. |
| *The ſame*..... | *Randulph*, in 1293. |
| | *Nicholas de Herlawe*, exchanged and reſigned, 1317. |
| | *John de Trepingfeld*, inſtit. Dec. 7, 1317. |
| | *John Jewcocke*, 1366. |
| | *Richard Coſyn*, exchanged and reſig. 1410. |
| | *Robert Popejay*, inſtit. June 17, 1410. |
| *Prior and Convent of Shene*..... | *John Prata*, exchanged and reſigned. |
| | *Wm. Ewan*, inſtit. Ap. 8, 1423. |
| | *John Morton*, collated Feb. 12, 1444, by lapſe. |
| | *Wm. Skipwill*, Oct. 16, 1464. |
| | *Rich. Huttone*, LL.D. obt. 1509. |
| | *Wm. Derlyntone*, A. M. inſtit. June 5, 1509, reſig. 1526. |
| *The Crown*..... | *Thomas Hall*, inſt. Dec. 28, 1526, reſig. 1535. |
| | *John Cowde*, A. M. inſtit. Nov. 27, 1535. |
| | *Richard Wheatly*, in 1547. |
| | *Henry Hall*, in 1548 and 1558. |
| | *John Regatt*, alias *Rigate*, 1566. |
| | *John Kynde*, A.M. inſt. Oct. 15, 1590. |
| | *John Cotton*, 1616. |
| | *John Creyghton*, D. D.[b] |
| | *John Sterne*, in 1650. |
| | *Thomas Plume*, B. D. ſubſcribed the declaration of conformity, as vicar, July 28, 1662, obt. Nov. 20, 1704.[c] |
| | *John Turner*, A. M. inſtit. Dec. 14, 1704, obt. Dec. 7, 1720.[d] |

[b] Ejected during the uſurpation. Walk. Suff. Clergy, part ii. p. 220.

[c] He was archdeacon of Rocheſter, and lies buried in Longfield church-yard. Newcourt's Rep. vol. i. p. 182.

[d] Born at Utoxeter, in Staffordſhire, in 1660. He was of Trinity-college, Cambridge, and afterwards maſter of Blackheath-ſchool, prebendary of Lincoln and of Canterbury, where he died, and was buried in that cathedral. Willis's Cath. vol. ii. p. 216.

PATRON. *The Crown.*

VICARS.

*Ralph Skerrett*, D. D. inſt. Jan. 13, 1720, obt. May 6, 1751.[a]

*Samuel Squire*, D. D. 1751. obt. May 7, 1766.[b]

VICARS.

*John Hinchcliffe*, D. D. May 10, 1766, reſig. Dec. 1769.[c]

*Andrew Burnaby*, D. D. Decem. 1769. Preſent vicar.

a And rector of St. Peter's le Poor, in London.

b Born at Warminſter, 1714, and educated at St. John's college, Cambridge, archdeacon of Bath; in 1748, preſented to Topsfield, Eſſex; in 1749, took his degree of D.D. in 1750, he was collated to the rectory of St. Anne's, Weſtminſter, when he reſigned Topsfield; in 1760, he was made dean of Briſtol; and in 1761, biſhop of St. David's. He held this vicarage *in commendam*.

c In 1768, he was made maſter of Trinity-college, Cambridge; and afterwards biſhop of Peterborough.

## CHARLTON.

EASTWARD from Greenwich, on the bank of the Thames, lies CHARLTON, antiently written *Ceorletone*, i. e. *the town of huſbandmen*; *ceorl*, in Saxon, ſignifying an *huſbandman*, or *churl*, as it was termed in *old* Engliſh. It is uſually called *Charlton near Greenwich*, to diſtinguiſh it from the other pariſh of the ſame name near Dover.

CHARLTON is a pleaſant well-built village, having many handſome houſes interſperſed throughout it. On the edge of the hill, at a ſmall diſtance from the church, was till lately houſes; one of which were in the poſſeſſion of the late governor Hunter; the other was erected by Robert lord Romney, who married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and coheirs of ſir Cloudeſly Shovel, knight. One of theſe houſes, near adjoining to the church-yard, belonged to the late Joſeph Kirke, eſq. and afterwards to James Browne, eſq. Since whoſe death, in 1787, it became the property of Francis Maculloch, James Brown Bonnor, eſqrs. and Suſannah, the wife of Robert Thompſon, on a demiſe, from whom it became the reſidence of lord Arden, and afterwards of George James, earl of Cholmondeley, who

who pulled the houſe down, and erected another inſtead of it in the wood further northward, in which he now reſides. The other houſe is the property of ſir Thomas Spencer Wilſon, bart. but it is at preſent in the tenure, for the remainder of a leaſe, of William Henry Lambton, eſq. who reſides in it. The marſhes, at the extremity of which is the Thames, bound the north-weſt of this pariſh. The village is on the upland, nearly in the centre of it, having the church at the eaſt end. Juſt beyond which is the noted coppice, called *Hanging-wood*, in the road to Woolwich, and at a ſmall diſtance ſouthward Charlton common, which joins the high London road to Shooter's-hill, on the other ſide of which, ſtill further ſouthward, is the hamlet of Kidbrook.

The market (granted by king Henry III. to the priory of Bermondſey, to be held here on a Monday weekly) has been diſcontinued a long time, as well as the fair, which was granted at the ſame time, as mentioned above. In the room of the latter there is a *fair* held at this place yearly on St. Luke's-day, October 18, called *Horn Fair*, and at which there are ſold rams-horns, and all ſorts of toys made of horn. It conſiſts of a riotous mob, who, after a printed ſummons diſperſed through the ſeveral towns and country round about, meet at *Cuckold's-point*, near Deptford, and march from thence in proceſſion through that town and Greenwich to Charlton, with horns of various kinds upon their heads. This aſſembly uſed formerly to be infamous for rudeneſs and indecency, but it is now much leſs ſo, by the endeavours of the conſtables, who are ordered to attend. Of this *fair* vulgar tradition gives this origin; that king John, or ſome other of our kings, being at the palace of Eltham, in this neighbourhood, and having been out a hunting one day, rambled from his company to this place, then a mean hamlet, when entering a cottage, he admired the beauty of the miſtreſs, whom he found

found alone, and having prevailed over her modeſty, the huſband ſuddenly returning, ſurpriſed them together, and threatening to kill them both, the king was obliged to diſcover himſelf, and to compound for their ſafety by a purſe of gold, and a grant of the land from this place to Cuckold's-point, beſides making the huſband maſter of that part of the hamlet. It is added, that in memory of this grant, and the occaſion of it, this *fair* was eſtabliſhed for the ſale of *horns* and all ſorts of goods made of that material. A ſermon is preached at Charlton church on the fair day.

In a field near Greenwich, *our herbaliſt*, John Gerarde, found the Pumaria alba latifolia claviculata, *white broad-leafed fumitorie*; and fumaria tenuifolia, *fine-leafed fumitorie*; and in a lane beyond the village, corciata, *croſwort*.[a] Here is alſo found, in Charlton-wood, anagallis lutea or flore luteo, *the yellow pimpernel*, and androſæmum hypericoides hirſutum, *hairy tutſan*; conferva plin. ſetis porcinis ſimilis, in the marſh ditches near the Thames. Junceum marinum ſpicatum, plentifully in the marſhy meadows here; and myoſitis ſcorpoides latifolia hirſuta, in Charlton-wood, and many other woods in this county.

In the reign of king Edward the Confeſſor, this place was eſteemed as *two manors*, and was granted, after the conqueſt, by king William to his half brother, Odo biſhop of Baieux, under the general title of whoſe lands it is thus entered in the general ſurvey of Domeſday:

*William Fitzoger holds of the biſhop (of Baieux) Cerletone. It was taxed at one ſuling. The arable land is 5 carucates. In demeſne there is 1 carucate and 13 villeins having 3 carucates. There are 2 ſervants and 8 acres of meadow. There is wood for the pannage of 5 hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confeſſor, and afterwards,*

[a] Johnſon's Gerarde's Herb. p. 1088, 1123. Merr. Pinax. p. 40.

*terwards, it was, and now is, worth 7 pounds. Two brothers, Goduin and Alward, held this land of the king for two manors.*

[The original Latin of the record of Domeſday has been given in the deſcription of Greenwich, as a ſpecimen of it, but its being read and underſtood by ſo very few, and the tranſlation of the ſeveral parts of it being continued throughout the courſe of theſe volumes, will excuſe any farther repetition of it, eſpecially as it would only ſerve to increaſe the ſize of them.] This place afterwards came into the poſſeſſion of Rob. Bloett, biſhop of Lincoln, the king's chancellor, and was given by him, in the 6th year of king William Rufus, under the deſcription of the manor of Charlton, with its appurtenances, to the monaſtery of St. Saviour of Bermondſey, near Southwark. Henry III. in his 53d year, granted to the prior of Bermondſey a market, to be held at this manor on a Monday weekly, and a fair for three days yearly, on the eve, the day, and the morrow of the Feaſt of the Trinity.[b] In which ſituation it remained till the reign of king Henry VIII. when the abbey of St. Saviour being ſurrendered into the king's hands, in the 29th year of it, this manor came to the crown, and was confirmed to the king and his heirs by the general words of the act, paſſed in the 31ſt year of his reign for that purpoſe.

Queen Mary, in her 5th year, granted this manor, with its appurtenances, to Thomas White, Roger Martyn, and William Blackwell, to hold with other premiſes, *in capite*, by the ſervice of a fortieth part of one knight's fee.[c] It was granted by queen Elizabeth in her 5th year, to lady Anne Parre. King James I. granted it to Sir Adam Newton, bart.[d] and tutor to prince Henry, his eldeſt ſon, who built a noble manor

[b] Dudg. Mon. vol. i. p. 640. Reg. Roff. p. 206.
[c] Rot. Eſch. 5 and 6 Phil. and Mary. Rot. 50. ibid. part iii.
[d] Philipott, p. 96. Willis's Cath. vol. i. p. 254. Wood's Ath. vol. i. p. 420.

houſe here, in the Gothic ſtile. He died in 1629, having married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Puckering, lord-keeper, by whom he left one ſon, Henry, his ſucceſſor in title and eſtate.[a] He bore for his arms, two coats quarterly, firſt and fourth, *Azure, two oſtrich feathers in ſaltire* (being an augmentation, as ſervant to the prince of Wales) *between three boars heads couped argent, langued and tuſked or*, by the name of Newton; ſecond and third, *ſable, a bend fuſile cotized argent*, by the name of Puckering.[b]

Sir Henry Newton, bart. on the death of his uncle, Sir Thomas Puckering, bart. in 1636, and of Jane, his only daughter, who was, againſt her will, ſeized upon in Greenwich-park, and carried over ſea to Dunkirk, by one Joſeph Welſh, who reported ſhe was married to him,[c] but died without iſſue, became by deed of ſettlement, heir to a good eſtate in Warwickſhire, and elſewhere, he removed to his uncle's ſeat, the Priory, at Warwick, and took the name of Puckering, being afterwards ſtiled Sir Henry Puckering, bart. alias Newton. He was a great royaliſt, and conſequently ſuffered much by ſequeſtration and other oppreſſion, inſomuch that he was neceſſitated to ſell this manor to Sir William Ducie, bart. of Tortworth, in Glouceſterſhire, ſecond ſon of Sir Robert Ducie, bart. alderman of London.

Sir William Ducie, bart. was one of the knights of the Bath at the coronation of king Charles II. by whom he was created Viſcount Downe, of the kingdom of Ireland.[d] He died without iſſue at his manor houſe here, in 1697, and was buried at Torthworth above mentioned. His executors ſold this manor to Sir William Langhorn, bart. an Eaſt India merchant,

[a] Baronetage, Ed. 1720. vol. i. p. 369. vol. ii. p. 141. Chauncy's Hertf. p. 370. Dug. Warw. p. 366.

[b] Guill. p. 225.

[c] Scob. Coll. part ii. p. 421.

[d] Collins's Peerage, vol. v. p. 348, 349. Atkin's Glouceſ. p. 412. Coll. Baronetage, vol. ii. p. 101.

who

who died without iſſue, in 1714, and lies buried in this church. On his death it came to his nephew and heir, Sir John Conyers, bart. ſon of Sir Chriſtopher Conyers, bt. by his firſt wife, Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter of William Langhorn, of London, and ſiſter of Sir William Langhorn, before mentioned. He bore for his arms, *Sable, a croſs argent, on a chief of the ſecond, three bugle horns ſable, ſtringed gules.*

This family was originally wrote *Coigners*, and was ſo called from a place of that name in France. Roger de Coigners came into England towards the end of the reign of William the Conqueror, to whom the biſhop of Durham, (William de Kaerlepho,) abbot of St. Vincent's, in Normandy, gave the conſtableſhip of Durham.

His grandſon, Sir John Conyers, bart. (ſon of Sir Baldwin) dying without iſſue male,[c] the manor of Charlton went by entail, firſt to William Langhorne Games, who dying likewiſe without iſſue male, it came then to the reverend John Marryon, of Eſſex, who left it by will to his ſiſter, Mrs. Margaretta Maria Marryon, in tail general; ſhe carried it in marriage firſt to John Badger Weller, eſq. of Hornchurch, in Eſſex, by whom ſhe had an only daughter, Margaretta Elizabeth, on his death ſhe married John Jones, eſq. who, in her right, was poſſeſſor of it, but ſince her death, it is now become veſted in her daughter, by her firſt huſband, married to Sir Thomas Spencer Wilſon, bart. of Eaſt Bourne, in Suſſex, late one of the knights in parliamen for that county.

The manor houſe, built by Sir Adam Newton before mentioned, ſtands at the entrance of the village: it is a long Gothic ſtructure, with four turrets on the top, before the court-yard there is a long row of cypreſs trees, which ſeem of great age, and are perhaps the oldeſt in England; behind the houſe are large

[c] They bore for their arms, *Azure on a maunch or.*

gardens,

gardens, and beyond theſe a ſmall park, which joins to Woolwich common.

Dr. Plot ſays, there was a marble chimney-piece in the dining room of this houſe, ſo exquiſitely poliſhed, that the lord of Downe could ſee in it a robbery committed on Shooter's-hill, whereupon, ſending out his ſervants, the thieves were taken. Thus in a chimney-piece, at Beauvoir-caſtle, he ſays, might be ſeen the city and cathedral of Lincoln, and in another, at Wilton, the city and cathedral of Saliſbury.

WRICKLESMARSH lies adjoining to the ſouthern ſide of Blackheath, and in early times was of ſome account, as appears by the ſurvey of Domeſday, in which it is mentioned, as having been, in the time of king Edward the Confeſſor, in the poſſeſſion of one Anſchil. At the taking it, in the time of the Conqueror, anno 1080, it was part of the poſſeſſions of Odo, the great biſhop of Baieux, under the general title of whoſe lands it is thus deſcribed in that record:

*The ſon of Turald of Rocheſter holds of the biſhop Witenemers. It was taxed at* 1 *ſuling. The arable land is* 4 *carucates. In demeſne there is* 1 *carucate and* 11 *villeins, with* 2 *cottagers, having* 2 *carucates. There are* 4 *acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of* 15 *hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confeſſor it was worth* 100 *ſhillings, when he received it* 4 *pounds, and now* 100 *ſhillings. Anſchil held it of king Edward.*

After this, for a long interval of time, I find no mention of it, but that it came at length into the family of Vere, earls of Oxford, one of whom, Robert Vere, third ſon of John earl of Oxford, died at his houſe at Wrickleſmarſh in 1598, and was buried in this church; after his death it came into the poſſeſſion of Sir William Garway, of London, who conveyed it to his ſon in law, Edward Blount, eſq. of the Middle Temple, London, who died poſſeſſed of it in 1617, and was buried in this church. His pedigree

is

is in the *heraldic viſitation* of Kent, taken in 1619, in which he is ſaid to be deſcended from Shropſhire.

At the latter end of the laſt century it was in the poſſeſſion of Sir John Morden, bart. the founder of Morden-college, near it, who dying in 1708, was buried in the chapel of his own college. By his will, he left his manſion-houſe, called Wrickleſmarſh, with its appurtenances, and as many acres of land next adjoining to it as amounted to the yearly value of one hundred pounds, to his wife, dame Suſan Morden, for life, and afterwards according to the diſpoſition of it in his will. Accordingly, ſoon after lady Morden's death, in 1721, it was ſold to Sir Gregory Page, bart. of Greenwich, who erected here a noble and magnificent edifice of ſtone, in the modern taſte, being one of the fineſt ſeats in England, belonging to a private gentleman, and much admired for its fine ſituation and excellent air. It ſtood in the midſt of the park, with a large piece of water before it, on a beautiful riſe, at about a quarter of a mile diſtance from the heath, which from the pales of the park riſes again up to the London road, which runs parallel to it at the like diſtance.

Sir Gregory Page was the ſon of Sir Gregory Page, bart. of Greenwich, who was advanced to that title December 3, anno 1 George I. Sir Gregory Page, the father, married Mary, daughter of Mr. Tho. Trotman, of London, and died in 1720, leaving two ſons, Sir Gregory Page, his ſucceſſor in title, before mentioned, and Thomas Page, eſq. of Batteſden, in Bedfordſhire, who left no iſſue; and two daughters, the eldeſt of whom, Mary, married Sir Edw. Turner, bart. of Ambroſden, in Oxfordſhire, by whom ſhe had one ſon, Edward, and the youngeſt, Sophia, was the firſt wife of Lewis Way, eſq. of Richmond, by whom ſhe had Benjamin Way, eſq. of Denham, in Buckinghamſhire. Lady Page died in 1729, and was interred in a vault in Bunhill-fields.

Sir

Sir Gregory Page, the ſon, married Martha, third daughter of Robert Kenward, of Yalding, eſq. who died 1767, without iſſue, as did Sir Gregory in 1775, and was buried, according to his will, in his family vault at Eaſt Greenwich; to the poor of which pariſh he left a large benefaction, as well as other conſiderable ſums in charities elſewhere. He bore for his arms—*Azure a feſs indented between three martlets or.* He by his will deviſed this ſeat, as well as the reſt of his eſtates in this county, to his great nephew, Sir Gregory Turner, of Ambroſden, in Oxfordſhire, bart. in tail male, who has ſince taken the name of Page.[a]

This family of Turner came out of Leiceſterſhire; one of whom, Edward Turner, eſq. was made a baronet on Auguſt 24, anno 7 king George II. leaving by Mary, one of the ſiſters of the late Sir Gregory Page as above-mentioned, one ſon, Edward, who ſucceeded him in title and eſtate, and two daughters, Elizabeth, now dowager viſcounteſs Say and Sele, and Caſſandra, married to Edward lord Hawke. Sir Edward, the ſon, married Caſſandra, daughter of William Leigh, of Addleſtrop, in Glouceſterſhire, eſq. by whom he had the preſent Sir Gregory Turner Page, bart. two other ſons and two daughters. This eſtate having thus paſſed into the poſſeſſion of Sir Gregory Turner Page, bart. he obtained an act of parliament in 1781 for the ſale of the eſtates of Sir Gregory Page, bart. In conſequence of which in 1783 this manſion, with the park and incloſures adjoining, was ſold for twenty-two thouſand five hundred and fifty pounds to John Cator, of Beckenham, eſq. who has ſince ſo far pulled down the manſion, that the bare walls only remain of it. He has likewiſe diſparked the park, and ſold ſeveral parts of it to different perſons, who have built a number of genteel houſes on the north-weſt verge of it, near the road going down towards Lee and Eltham.

[a] He bears for his arms, *Argent, a fer de moline pierced ſable.*

MORDEN COLLEGE ſtands adjoining to Blackheath, a little to the eaſtward of Sir Gregory Turner's late park, and was ſo named from its founder, Sir John Morden, of Wrickleſmarſh before-mentioned, a Turkey merchant, who brought home a good fortune with him from Aleppo. Several years before his death, taking pattern by the biſhop of Rocheſter's college at Bromley in this neighbourhood, he erected this building, in form of a college, not far from his own habitation, for the ſupport of poor, honeſt, decayed merchants; for whoſe relief, among all the charitable foundations in and about London for diſtreſſed people, there had been none erected before: and this college may now, from its ſituation and ample endowment, be ſaid to be one of the moſt comfortable retreats for the aged and unfortunate, that charity affords in this kingdom. The college conſiſts of a large brick building, with two ſmall wings, ſtrengthened at the corners with ſtone ruſtic; having an inward ſquare ſurrounded with piazzas, and a chapel and burying-place adjoining, for the members of the college. The founder, according to his will, was buried in a vault within this chapel, under the altar.

Sir John Morden died in 1708; and by his will, in 1702, and a codicil afterwards, endowed this college, after his lady's deceaſe, with a conſiderable real, copyhold, and perſonal eſtate, to the value of about thirteen hundred pounds per annum.

The founder of this noble charity placed in it twelve decayed Turkey merchants in his life-time; but after his deceaſe, lady Morden, finding that the ſhare allotted her by her huſband's will, was inſufficient for her decent ſupport, ſome parts of the eſtate not anſwering ſo well as was expected, ſhe was obliged to reduce the number to four. Upon her death in 1721, the whole eſtate coming to the college, the number was again increaſed, and there have been, at times, thirty poor gentlemen in it, though now there are not ſo many; but

but the number not being limited, it is intended to be increaſed as the eſtate will afford; for the building will conveniently hold forty.

Sir John Morden appointed by his will, lady Morden his executrix, and three others, Turkey merchants, to be truſtees of his eſtate ſettled for this purpoſe, and ſole managers and viſitors of this college, as they ſhould ſee occaſion. The firſt truſtees, upon the deceaſe of any of them, are to chooſe and nominate others, to the number of ſeven; all to be Turkey merchants; the ſurvivors of them to chooſe others of the ſame company, from time to time, to fill up the number. Or, if at any time hereafter, there ſhould be a failure in the Turkey Company, then the election to be made out of the Eaſt-India Company, of which the founder was alſo a member.[a]

Seven Turkey merchants have accordingly now the direction of this college, and the nomination of the perſons admitted into it.

The penſioners have each twenty pounds a year, and at firſt wore gowns, with the founder's badge; but this has not been for ſome years. They have a common table to eat and drink together at meals; and each has a convenient apartment, with a cellar. The treaſurer, chaplain, and penſioners, are obliged to reſide in the college, and no penſioner can be admitted who cannot bring a certificate, to prove his being upwards of fifty years of age.

In 1771 an act paſſed to compromiſe the diſputes between the king and the truſtees of this college, concerning the property of Maidenſtone-hill, in Greenwich, claimed by them, but given up as belonging to the royal manor of Greenwich. In which act there is a clauſe to increaſe the ſalaries of the treaſurer and chaplain of the hoſpital, not exceeding fifty pounds per annum; and the penſion of each poor merchant, not

[a] Strype's Stow's Survey, book i. p. 219.

exceeding

exceeding forty pounds per annum; notwithſtanding Sir John Morden's will limited the treaſurer's ſalary to forty pounds; the chaplain's to thirty pounds, and each poor merchant's to twenty pounds, which, left by a codicil, was reduced to fifteen pounds per annum.

Sir Gregory Page, who died in 1775, deviſed, by his will, three hundred pounds towards the repairing or ornamenting the chapel of this college.

The marſhes in this pariſh, called Charlton-level, contain one hundred and forty-five ares; of which the whole belonged to Sir Henry Puckering, bart. excepting twenty-two acres, which belonged to the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter, and Henry Gilbourne, eſq. the whole being within that *commiſſion of ſewers* which extends from Lumbard's-wall down to Graveſend-bridge, in this county.

## *CHARITES.*

There are four alms-houſes belonging to this pariſh, but it is not known when, or by whom given, but they were rebuilt by Sir Richard Raynes.

Sir WILLIAM LANGHORN, bart. by will in 1714, gave for the uſe of ſuch poor people as ſhould be placed in the alms-houſes belonging to this pariſh, 100l. in money, in the hands of the accomptant-general of the court of chancery, being of the annual produce of 2l. 17s. 8d. and for the uſe of a charity ſchool, directed by his will to be kept at Charlton, 300l. in the ſame accomptant's hands, being of the annual produce of 8l. 15s. 2d. He, in his life-time, built a ſchool-room over the veſtry in the church-yard, for teaching the poor children of this pariſh.

THOMAS RUSSELL, in 1656, by will, gave an annuity of 2l. 12s. to be laid out weekly in bread, for ſix poor houſeholders, not known in whom veſted, and it has not been paid for ſeveral years.

The Rev. WILLIAM CORRY, by will, gave two thirds of a houſe in Greenwich, for the uſe of the poor of this pariſh, now of the annual produce of 3l. 13s. 4d.

The Rev. ABRAHAM COLFE, by will, in 1656, gave to be laid out weekly in two penny loaves of wheaten bread, to be diſtributed to two poor houſeholders of this pariſh, a fund veſted in the Leather-ſellers Company, of the annual produce of 8s. 8d.

THIS PARISH has the right of nominating two perſons, out of which one to be choſen by the Draper's Company, to be provided for in the college of William Lambarde, at Greenwich.

Charlton

Charlton is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* of Rocheſter, and *deanry* of Dartford.

The church of Charlton *(Cerlentone)* was antiently valued at one hundred ſhillings.[a]

In the time of king Edward I. *an aſſize* was brought to determine what patron, in the time of peace, preſented the laſt parſon to this church, then vacant by his death, the advowſon of which the prior of Bermondſey claimed, againſt Thomas, biſhop of Rocheſter; and the biſhop allowed the prior his preſentation for that turn; reſerving to him his right, when at any time he ſhould bring his plea for it. Upon which the prior had his writ directed to the biſhop, that, notwithſtanding the above, he ſhould, for this turn, inſtitute a fit parſon to it. Which plea was inrolled before Thomas de Weyland, and his aſſociates, juſtices of the King's-bench at Weſtminſter, in the fifteenth year, and the beginning of the ſixteenth of king Edward I.[b]

By the *commiſſion of enquiry* of the value of church livings, in 1650, out of the court of chancery, it was returned, that Charlton was a parſonage, with a houſe and glebe land, worth ninety pounds per annum; one maſter John Pemberton enjoying it.[c]

The church of Charlton was valued in the king's books at 10l. 7s. 8½d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 9½d.[d]

The church is dedicated to St. Luke, and ſeems to have been ſurrendered to the crown with the manor of Charlton, and the reſt of the poſſeſſions of the monaſtery of St. Saviour's of Bermondſey, at its diſſolution, anno 29 king Henry VIII. and to have remained part of the royal demeſnes, till king James I. granted it, with the manor, to Sir Adam Newton, who deſigned to have enlarged and beautified this church;

[a] Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.
[b] Reg. Roff. p. 207.
[c] Lambeth Surveys.
[d] Bacon's Lib. Regis.

but

but dying before he could accompliſh his intention, he left the care of doing it to his truſtees, who moſt amply diſcharged that truſt; for they new built great part of it, and erected a new ſteeple from the ground, furniſhing it with a good ring of bells, and decorating it ſo handſomely within and without, that when finiſhed, it ſurpaſſed in beauty moſt churches in the county.

The patronage of it continued in the poſſeſſors of the manor of Charlton, till Sir William Langhorn gave it, at his death in 1714, to Robert Warren, D. D. then rector of it; whoſe ſon, Langhorn Warren, likewiſe rector, ſold it to Thomas Chamberlaine, A. M. whoſe ſon of the ſame name, who as well as his father, were ſucceſſively rectors of this church, died poſſeſſed of this advowſon in 1789, on which it became veſted in his widow Mrs. Chamberlain, and Mr. Maule, as his executors, and they are now entitled to it.

In the twelfth year of queen Anne an act paſſed for the exchange of the parſonage-houſe and cloſe adjoining, in lieu of another houſe and lands there.

In this church are the following *monuments* and *memorials*; among others, a monument at the weſt end of the iſle, for John Griffith, eſq. brigadier, obt. 1713, he married the widow of Wm. Halton, eſq. of Lincolnſhire. A ſmall ſtone near the font for lady Charlotte Percival. In *the chancel* a monument for Tho. Beardmore, A. M. eldeſt ſon of John Beardmore, rector of Whitwell, in Derbyſhire, and fifteen years rector of this pariſh, obt. 1702, æt. 43; and for his wife, daughter of Mr. Robert Maundwell, of Wiltſhire, gent. obt. 1707, leaving a ſon, Thomas, aged five years. On the ſouth-ſide of the altar is a ſuperb monument, with the figure of a man in armour as large as life, holding a truncheon in his right hand, with trophies, &c. for the hon. brigadier Michael Richards, ſurveyor-general of the ordnance, obt. 1721, æt. 48; this monument was erected by his three nieces, daughters of James Craggs, eſq. Near the above monument is a braſs plate in the

wall for Geo. Segar, gent. obt. 1594. On an antient ſtone near it, fixed in the wall, are theſe arms fixed in the centre, *party per feſs embattled three demi griffins, impaling a chevron charged with an annulet*, for difference, *between three martlets*; over all, on an eſcutcheon of pretence, *a croſs moline between four mullets argent*; at each corner of the ſtone are ſhields of the ſame arms in ſmall. Over the veſtry door a monument for Elizabeth, wife of James Craggs, eſq. obt. 1711, æt. 49. Near the ſmall door on the ſouth ſide is a monument for Robert Veer, eſq. third ſon of John earl of Oxford, obt. 1598. In the *north chancel* an elegant monument, with the buſt of a woman, and an inſcription for Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Thompſon, of Kerby-hall, in Yorkſhire, eſq. wife of Robert Dingley, of London, merchant, who left two ſurviving children, Suſanna-Cecilia and Robert-Henry, obt. 1759, æt. 50. On a braſs plate a monument for Edward Blount, of Middle Temple, London, eſq. who married firſt, Syſtine, daughter of William Dormer, of London, by whom he had three daughters; ſecondly, Fortune, daughter of Sir William Garway, by whom he left ſurviving only four ſons, obt. 1617, æt. 48. On the north ſide a ſtately monument for lady Catherine Puckeringe, youngeſt daughter of Sir John Puckeringe, and wife of Sir Adam Newton, bart. who was afterwards buried near it, obt. 1629, leaving a ſon and four daughters. Adjoining to the above is another ſtately monument for Grace viſcounteſs Ardmagh, ſecond daughter of John earl of Rutland; who married ſecondly, Sir Wm. Langhorn, bart. obt. 1700, æt. 60; Sir William Langhorn was buried near it obt. 1714, æt. 85. The ſeveral windows are filled with coats of arms, of Puckeringe, Newton, Blount, and their matches. In the eaſt window were the figures at large of Moſes and Aaron, with the two tables, but the heads of the figures only are remaining; beneath are the arms of the ſee of Rocheſter impaled, firſt and fourth quarterly, *per bend indented*

*indented argent and ſable, two fleurs de lis, or*; ſecond and third, *vert, a croſs ingrailed argent*; at the bottom, an inſcription that this window was glazed at the charge of James Newton, uncle to Sir Henry Puckeringe Newton, bart. obt. 1639.[a]

Henry Oldenburgh, a man of ſome note in the annals of literature, and fellow and ſecretary of the Royal Society, at its firſt foundation, died at Charlton in 1678, and was buried in this church;[b] as was Edw. viſcount Coke, ſon of Thomas, earl of Leiceſter, who died at Greenwich in 1753.

## *CHURCH OF CHARLTON.*

| PATRONS, *Or by whom preſented.* | RECTORS. |
|---|---|
| *The Queen* | *Robert Wylye*, Oct. 10, 1553, obt. 1636.[c] |
| *The King* | *John Denniſon*, A. M. July 13, 1636, obt. 1636.[d] |
| | *John Hume*, A. M. preſented Nov. 24, 1636, ſequeſtered 1643.[e] |
| | *John Pemberton*, in 1650.[f] |
| | *John Wheler*, admitted in 1657.[g] |
| | *John Craſty*, 1685. |
| | *Jonathan Jenner*, 1688. |
| | *Thomas Beardmore*, A. M. 1688, obt. Oct. 26, 1702.[h] |
| | *Robert Warren*, D. D. inſt. March 28, 1704, reſig. 1736.[i] |
| | *Langhorn Warren*, inſtit. Nov. 1736, obt. 1752.[k] |
| | *Thomas Chamberlayne*, 1752, obt. 1781. |
| | *Thomas Chamberlayne*, A. M. 1781, obt. 1789. |
| | *Henry Roper*, A. M. 1789, the preſent rector. |

[a] See the monuments, &c. in this church at large in Reg. Roff. p. 841.
[b] Wood's Ath. Ox. v. ii. Faſti, p. 114.
[c] Rym. Fœd. vol. xv. p. 347.
[d] Ibid. vol. xx. p. 137.
[e] Ibid. p. 139.
[f] Lambeth Surveys.
[g] Walker's Suff. Cler. part ii. p. 183.
[h] He lies buried in this church.
[i] He retired to Exeter, where he died that year.
[k] He had this rectory on the reſignation of his father.

The LIBERTY OF KIDBROOKE, uſually ſo called, lies adjoining to Charlton, on the ſouth ſide of the London road, a ſmall diſtance from Blackheath. It was antiently written *Cicebroc*, and it was once a pariſh of itſelf, though now eſteemed as an appendage to that of Charlton, having one overſeer of the poor appointed for it.

Cecilia, counteſs of Hereford (daughter of Pain Fitz-John, and wife of Miles Fitz-Walter, earl of Hereford) gave all her land of *Ketebrook*, with the advowſon of the church of the pariſh, with all other its appurtenances, to the prior and canons of St. Mary (Overies) of *Sudwerc*; and this grant was confirmed by king John, in his 8th year, and again by Henry VI. by *inſpeximus*, in his 19th year.[a]

At the diſſolution of this monaſtery, anno 30th Henry VIII. the manor of Kidbrooke, with the demenſe lands and premiſes above-mentioned, became part of the royal revenues,[b] and was confirmed to that king, and his heirs, by the general words of the act, paſſed in the 31ſt year of his reign for that purpoſe.

Queen Elizabeth granted a leaſe of the ſcite of the manor, the rectory, and parcel of the manor woods, (ſhe having granted part of them to Thomas French) to Bryan Anneſley, of the adjoining pariſh of Lee,[c] (grandſon of Bryan, who was ſecond ſon of William Anneſley, eſq. of Rodington, in Nottinghamſhire, anceſtor to the earls of Angleſea and viſcount Valentia, by Robert Anneſley, his fourth ſon, a younger brother of Bryan laſt mentioned);[d] but the fee of this eſtate remained in the crown till king James I. who, in the beginning of his reign, granted it to Sir William Garway, of London, by whom it was ſoon afterwards conveyed to his ſon-in-law, Edward Blount, eſq. of

[a] Dugd. Baron. vol. i. p. 536, 538. Ibid. Mon. vol. ii. p. 86.
[b] Strype's Stow's Survey, book iv. p. 9.
[c] Aug. Off. Grants and Leaſes T. Eliz.
[d] Iriſh Peerage, vol. ii. p. 172.

Wrickleſmarſh,

Wrickleſmarſh, who ſold the fee-ſimple (the above leaſe ſtill ſubſiſting) to the above mentioned Bryan Anneſley, eſq. He left three daughters his coheirs, Chriſtian married to William lord Sandys, of the Vine, Southampton; Grace to Sir John Wildgooſe, of Iridge court, in Suſſex; and Cordelia, married to Sir William Hervey, who brought her huſband this eſtate as part of her inheritance.

The ſurname of Hervey, or Harvey, antiently written Fitzhervey, is ſuppoſed to be derived from Robert Fitzharvey, a younger ſon of Harvey, duke of Orleans, who is recorded among thoſe commanders, who accompanied William the Conqueror in his expedition into this kingdom in 1066.[e]

Sir William Hervey, of Kidbrooke above mentioned, (from whoſe eldeſt brother, John of Ickworth, were deſcended the earls of Briſtol) was ſon of Henry, eldeſt ſon of Nicholas Hervey. Having firſt ſignaliſed himſelf in the memorable engagement of the Spaniſh armada, in 1588, he was knighted, with many other perſons of note. After which he eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf on ſeveral occaſions, and was created a baronet by king James, in his 17th year, and the year following a peer of Ireland, by the title of Baron Hervey, of Roſs, in Wexford county, and laſtly, on account of his farther eminent ſervices, both at home and abroad, in the 3d year of king Charles I. a baron of this realm, by the title of lord Hervey of Kidbrooke, in Kent. He married firſt Mary, relict of Henry Wriotheſley, earl of Southampton, by whom he had no iſſue; ſecondly, Cordelia, daughter and co-heir of Bryan Anneſley, as before mentioned, by whom he had three ſons, who died before him, without iſſue, and three daughters, of whom only Elizabeth, the youngeſt, ſurvived him, and became his ſole

[e] Coll. Peer. vol. iii. p. 231. Ibid. laſt edition, vol iv. p. 343. Philipott, p. 96.

heir, and married John Hervey of Ickworth, eſq.[a] On the death of William, lord Hervey, in 1642, John Hervey of Ickworth, eſq. in right of his wife, became intitled to Kidbrooke, from whom it paſſed by ſale to Edward lord Montague of Boughton, in Northamptonſhire, ſon of Sir Edward Montague, who was created lord Montague, baron of Boughton, by letters patent, anno 19 James I.

The ſurname of this family was antiently written, in Latin, *De Monte-acuto*, and in Old Engliſh, *Montacute*, as is evident, not only from Domeſday book, but from other antient records.

Drogo de Monteacuto was one of thoſe noble warriors, who came over with William duke of Normandy, in the retinue of Robert earl of Moreton, half brother to the Conqueror, as appears by the poſſeſſions he held under that great earl, at the time of the general ſurvey. From him, through a long train of illuſtrious anceſtors paternally, and from the Bruces, kings of Scotland, maternally, was deſcended Edward, lord Montague, poſſeſſor of Kidbrooke, before mentioned, who died in 1683, and was ſucceeded in title and eſtate by his ſecond and only ſurviving ſon, Ralph lord Montague, who, for his eminent abilities, was created Viſcount Monthermer and Earl of Montague, in 1689, and marquis of Monthermer, and duke of Montague, by queen Anne, in her 4th year, anno 1705. The duke bore for his arms thoſe of Montague and Monthermer quarterly. He died in 1709, his only ſurviving ſon John ſucceeded him, and in the year 1717, procured an act of parliament to veſt the manor of Kidbrooke, the capital meſſuage there, and the ſcite of the manor, with all their appurtenances, and the rectory or parſonage of Kid-

[a] Collins's Peerage, laſt edition, vol. iv. p. 349. Kimb. Bar. vol. ii. p. 130.

brooke,

brooke, and all the houſes, glebe lands, and tithes belonging to it, in truſtees, to be ſold towards the payment of debts, who ſoon paſſed away this manor and rectory, with the reſt of the premiſes as above mentioned, to James Craggs, ſenior, eſq. joint poſt-maſter general, on whoſe death, in 1721, without male iſſue, his only ſon, James Craggs, eſq. one of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate, dying before him, this eſtate deſcended to his three daughters and coheirs; Anne, firſt married to John Newſham, by whom ſhe had one ſon; ſecondly to John Knight, eſq. of Eſſex; and thirdly, in 1736, to Robert Nugent, of Gosfield-hall, in that county, afterwards created viſcount Clare and earl Nugent, of the kingdom of Ireland; Elizabeth, in 1718, married to Edward Eliot, eſq. of Cornwall; and Margaret, married firſt to Samuel Trefuſis, eſq. of Trefuſis, in Cornwall, by whom ſhe had no iſſue; and ſecondly to Sir John Hind Cotton, bart. by whom ſhe had only one daughter, who died young. On her deceaſe, in 1734, ſhe left her *third part* of this eſtate to her two ſiſters. The family of the Craggs bore for their arms, *Sable, on a bend or, three croſlets of the field between three mullets ermine.*

In 1756, Anne, wife of Robert Nugent, eſq. died, and being a *feme covert*, by deed of appointment veſted her moiety in truſtees for different uſes, with remainder to the honourable Robert Nugent, her huſband, in tail. Mrs. Eliot, on her death, in 1765, bequeathed her intereſt in it to truſtees, to pay divers ſums out of the annual profit of it, with remainder, after the death of her nephew, James Newſham, only ſon of her eldeſt ſiſter Anne, by John Newſham, eſq. who had taken the ſurname of Craggs, to his iſſue, remainder to Edward Eliot, eſq. her ſon, and his iſſue.

James Newſham Craggs, eſq. married the eldeſt daughter of Henry lord Teynham, but died without iſſue, at Liſle, in Flanders, in 1769, on which the manor and rectory of Kidbrooke came, by the virtue of the

above entail, to Robert Nugent before mentioned, afterwards earl Nugent, who took the ſurname of Craggs; and Edward, ſon of Edward Eliot, eſq. by Elizabeth Craggs, his wife who, on January 10, 1784, was created a baron of this realm, by the title of Lord Eliot of Port Eliot, in the county of Cornwall. Earl Nugent died in 1788, on which, by the ſettlements abovementioned, this eſtate became wholly veſted in Edward lord Eliot, who has ſince taken the name of Craggs, and is the preſent poſſeſſor of it. Lord Eliot, who is deſcended from a family long reſident in Devonſhire and Cornwall, married Catharine, ſole daughter and heir of Edward Elliſon, eſq. of Southweald, in Eſſex, by whom he has iſſue Edward James, who married Harriot, ſiſter of the preſent earl of Chatham, John and William. He bears for his arms, *Argent a feſs between four cotizes wavy gules.*

The CHURCH of Kidbrooke, called, in the *Textus Roffenſis*, the chapel of *Chitebroc*, was antiently valued at one hundred ſhillings. The patronage of it was, from the earlieſt times, annexed to the manor; an account of the poſſeſſors of which has been already given. This church being vacant was, upon the petition of the prior and convent of St. Mary of Southwark, appropriated to it by John Langdon, biſhop of Rocheſter, with the king's licence, in the 5th year of king Henry VI. the biſhop reſerving to himſelf and his ſucceſſors, the annual penſion of two ſhillings from it, which was confirmed by John Lowe, biſhop of Rocheſter, in 1459.[a]

The church has been entirely demoliſhed for many years, for the vicarage not being endowed, it fell into neglect and decay, and the inhabitants not being able to repair it, the building ſoon became ruinous, and they have for many years reſorted to Charlton church, to which it became annexed by compoſition.

[a] Reg. Roff. p. 136, 142, 456.

I find

I find only two rectors of this place, viz.

*Richard de Wake*, exchanged in 1348.
*Simon de Barlings*, 1348.[b]

## WOOLWICH

IS the next pariſh to Charlton eaſtward. It lies on the bank of the river Thames, and was called, in the time of the Saxons, *Hulviz*, which, in the language of that nation, ſignified the dwelling on the creek of the river. By this name it is called in the ſurvey of Domeſday, in the *Textus Roffenſis*, it is written *Wlewic*.

It ſeems in former times to have been a ſmall fiſhing place, but very thinly inhabited, owing probably to the lowneſs of its ſituation, and the overflowings of the river, before it was imbanked.

A ſmall part of this pariſh lies on the oppoſite ſide of the river Thames, adjoining Eſſex, but yet within the county of Kent. Probably *haimo*, *vicecomes* or *ſheriff*, of this county, in the time of the Conqueror, being poſſeſſed of Woolwich on this ſide the river, as well as the lands adjoining to it on the other ſide, procured them, either by compoſition or grant from the king, to be annexed to his juriſdiction, as part of his county, and then incorporated them with it; and an old manuſcript mentions, that the pariſh of Woolwich had, on the Eſſex ſide of the Thames, five hundred acres of land, ſome few houſes, and a chapel of eaſe.[c] There are ſeveral inſtances of different counties in this kingdom being at this time ſeparated from ſmall diſtricts belonging to them, by parts of adjoining ones intervening.[d]

[b] He exchanged the vicarage of Harmanſworth, in Middleſex, for this church, 23 Edw. I. Newcourt's Rep. vol. i. p. 634.
[c] Harris's Hiſtory of Kent, p. 340.
[d] Camden, p. 21. Chauncy's Hertf. p. 599. Dugdale's Warw. p. 481, and others.

THE

THE TOWN OF WOOLWICH is ſituated on the bank of the river, is very populous, and has been much improved of late years; it is wholly taken up by, and in a manner raiſed from the yards and works erected here, for the naval ſervice and the ordnance. At high water, the Thames is about a mile over, and the water ſalt upon the flood, and as the channel lies direct eaſt and weſt for about three miles, the tide runs very ſtrong, and the river is entirely free from ſhoals and ſands, and has ſeven or eight fathoms water; ſo that the largeſt ſhips may ride with ſafety, even at low water. In the year 1236, anno 21 Henry III. the marſhes near Woolwich were overflowed by the ſudden riſe of the Thames, in ſuch a manner, that many of the inhabitants periſhed, together with a great number of cattle; and in the reigns of James I. another inundation happened, by which many acres were laid under water, ſome of which have never been recovered. Among the patent rolls in the Tower, are many commiſſions, which iſſued in the reign of king Henry III. and in the ſucceeding ones, for overſeeing and repairing the breaches, walls, ditches, &c. in different places and marſhes between Greenwich and Woolwich, which are now under that commiſſion of ſewers, which extends from Lombarde's-wall to Graveſend-bridge.

Woolwich has a market weekly on Friday, but no annual fair. The pariſh extends ſouthward as far as the high London road, near Shooter's-hill, adjoining to which is Woolwich-common.

*The dock* at Woolwich claims ſome preference before all others in the kingdom, as well in ſeniority, as its importance to government, having had moſt of the largeſt ſhips built at it for ſeveral reigns paſt; one of which, in the firſt year of queen Mary, called *the Great Harry*, of 1000 tons, was burnt here by accident; in the reign of queen Elizabeth, when the buſineſs of the royal navy increaſed, and larger ſhips of war were built than were uſually employed before, new docks

docks and launches were erected here, and places prepared for the building and repairing ſhips of the largeſt ſize, becauſe here was a greater depth of water and freer channel than at Deptford.

On July 3, 1559, queen Elizabeth honoured this place with her preſence at the launching of a fine ſhip, newly built, and called by her own name, Elizabeth.[a] In the year 1637, the Royal Sovereign was built in this dock; a ſhip which was the glory of this nation, and the wonder of the world. She was 1637 tons burthen, beſides tonnage; 128 feet long, 48 broad; from the fore-end of the beak-head to the after-end of the ſtern, 152 feet; from the bottom of the keel to the top of the lanthern, 76 feet. She had five lantherns, the largeſt of which would hold ten perſons, upright; three fluſh-decks, a fore-caſtle, half-deck, quarter deck, and round-houſe. The lower tier had 60 ports, the middle one 30, the third 26; the fore-caſtle 12, half-deck 14, and as many more within, beſides ten pieces of chace ordnance forward, and ten right off, and many loop-holes in the cabin for muſquets; eleven anchors, one of which weighed four thouſand four hundred pounds. This royal ſhip was curiouſly carved and gilt with gold, and the Dutch, from the ſlaughter and havoc her cannon made among them, gave her the name of *the Golden Devil.* A deſcription of this ſhip was publiſhed by authority, at London, in quarto, in 1637, by T. Haywood, the celebrated actor, who was employed in contriving the emblematical devices about it.

The dock-yard, and the buildings belonging to it are encompaſſed with a high wall, and are ſpacious and convenient, and abundantly filled with all ſorts of ſtores and naval proviſions. Here is no commiſſioner reſident, but the whole is under the immediate inſpection of the navy-board, which appoints officers for the management of this yard, who have

[a] Strype's Annals, vol. i. p. 163.

handſome

handſome houſes to reſide in, and a number of inferior clerks and ſervants under them, which are much the ſame as thoſe of Deptford, excepting, that their ſalaries are not ſo large.

Here is a large rope-walk, where the biggeſt cables are made for the men of war, and on the eaſtern, or lower part of the town, is the Gun-yard, commonly called *the Park*, or the *Gun park*, where there is a great quantity of cannon, of all ſorts, for the ſhips of war, every ſhip's guns lying in tiers, or rows apart, heavy cannon for batteries, and mortars of all ſorts and ſizes, inſomuch, thar there has been ſometimes laid up here, at once, between ſeven and eight thouſand pieces of ordnance, beſides mortars and ſhells almoſt beyond number.

There is both a CIVIL and MILITARY BRANCH of the OFFICE OF ORDNANCE eſtabliſhed at Woolwich.

The *civil branch* is under the management of a Storekeeper, Clerk of the Survey, Clerk of the Cheque, Clerk of the Foundery, and other officers, who have many inferior ſervants and workmen under them.

The *military branch* of the office of ordnance is under the direction of a chief engineer, who ranks as colonel; two directors, who rank as lieutenant-colonels; four ſub-directors, as majors. The engineers in ordinary rank as captains; the engineers extraordinary as captain-lieutenants, and the ſub-engineers as lieutenants; beſides which there are ſeveral practitioner engineers.

Under this office, in a place, called the *Warren*, artillery of all kinds and dimenſions are caſt; and the ſame, before the building of the *powder magazine* at Purfleet, uſed to be frequently proved here, before the principal engineers and officers of the board of ordnance, to which many of the nobility and gentry are often invited, who are afterwards ſumptuouſly entertained by them. Gunpowder likewiſe, contracted

ted for by the office of ordnance, is proved here, as to its ſtrength and goodneſs, and whether it is fit for the public ſervice. Belonging to this office there is a laboratory, under the direction of a controller, a chief fire-maſter, a fire-maſter's mate, a clerk, and other workmen and labourers. Under theſe the *companies of matroſſes* are employed in the compoſitions and making up of fireworks and cartridges, and in charging bombs, carcaſes, granadoes, and ſuch like matters, for the public ſervice.

*A royal academy* is eſtabliſhed here, under the board of ordnance, for the inſtructing and edifying young gentlemen, intended for the office of engineers in the military branch of that office; theſe are called *cadets*, and are appointed by that board. They are taught in it the principles and art of fortification, and every branch of military ſcience relating to it, beſides the French and Latin tongues, writing, fencing, and drawing. There are belonging to this academy, a governor, lieutenant governor, and maſters in each reſpective branch of ſcience and literature.

Moſt of the officers, under both branches of the ordnance, have handſome houſes and apartments and other accomodations allotted to them here, according to their reſpective ranks and ſtations.

The GRAVEL-PITS, at Woolwich, have been for many years the common place for *ſimpling* amongſt the apothecaries and druggiſts of London. Our *herbaliſt*, Gerarde, takes notice, that the thalietrum ſive thalictrum majus et minus, *great and ſmall baſtard rhubarb*, grows at Woolwich and its neighbourhood on the banks of the river.[a]

In king Edward the Confeſſor's confirmation of the gift of Ethruda, king Alfred's niece, of the manor of Lewiſham, and its appendages, to the abbey of St. Peter of Ghent, in Flanders, made in 1044, Wulewic

[a] Johnſon's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 1252.

is mentioned as one of them, belonging to that manor,[a] but the ſucceeding grants, relating to Lewiſham manor, make no mention of this place; and in the 7th year of king Edward I. the king was lord of Eltham and Woolwiche.[b]

The MANOR OF WOOLWICH, which is coextenſive with the pariſh, has for many years been eſteemed a member of the manor of Eltham, though it holds a ſeparate court, and has a ſeparate jury and homage. That it has been eſteemed a member of that manor for ſome time is plain from the ſurvey taken in 1649, by the truſtees appointed by parliament for the ſale of the crown lands, of the manor of Eltham and its members, in which there is an account of quit-rents due to the lord of that manor, from the ſeveral freeholders within the townſhip of Woolwich.[c]

Sir John Shaw having purchaſed a ſubſiſting term of the manors of Eltham and Woolwich, Charles II. in conſideration of the eminent ſervices performed by him, and promiſes made before, granted him, in 1663, *a new and longer term* of thoſe premiſes, which about thirty-five years ago was renewed, and this manor, together with that of Eltham, is now in the poſſeſſion of his great-great-grandſon, Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart. as leſſee under the crown, to whom the inheritance belongs.

There is a court leet and court baron held yearly for the manor of Woolwich, ſeparate from that of Eltham, and a jury and homage ſworn and charged out of the reſidents and tenants of it, to enquire within the manor. At this leet the jury appoints two conſtables and ale-taſters for the town and pariſh of Woolwich. In the court baron the tenants are all free tenants.

There is an eſtate here, formerly called the MANOR OF SOUTHALL, alias WOOLWICH, for it once bore

[a] Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 900. [b] Rot. Fœd. Milt. Capt. eo an.
[c] Parl. Surveys, Augmentation Office.

the

the reputation of a manor, and was ſtiled, in the Fœdary Books of this county, the *Manor of Wulwiche.*

In the ſurvey of Domeſday, taken in 1080, it is thus deſcribed, under the general title of the poſſeſſions of *Haimo Vicecomes*:

*In the half of the lath of Sudtone in Grenwiz hundred, there Haimo has 63 acres of arable land, which belong to him in Woolwich. William Accipitrarius held them of K. Edward the Confeſſor. There are 11 borderers paying 41 pence. The whole is worth 3 pounds.*

Gilbert de Mariſco held it about the beginning of king Edward I. and aſſumed the name of De Mariſco, from the eſtate which he enjoyed in the marſhes. He held this manor of Warren de Munchenſi, Baron of Swanſcampe: after him Sabina de Windleſore poſſeſſed it, about the 17th of king Edward II. being held of the Barony of Munchenſi; which was again held of the king.[d]

The next in ſucceſſion to her was John de Pulteney, who held it in the 20th year of that reign, in like manner as ſhe had held it before.[e]

This Sir John de Pulteney, ſon of Adam de Pulteney and Maud his wife, was a perſon of great account; having been four times Lord Mayor of London. He was much in favor with king Edward III. and is noticed by our hiſtorians for his piety, wiſdom, large poſſeſſions, and magnificent manner of living.

Humphry de Bohun, earl of Hereford, in the 21ſt year of that reign, conveyed to Sir John Pulteney, among other premiſes, his intereſt in the manor of Southall in Woolwich.[f]

By the inquiſition taken after his death, it appears that he died in the 23d of king Edward III. poſſeſſed of this manor; and that William de Pulteney was his

[d] Philipott, p. 371. [e] Book of Aid, anno 20. Edw. III.
[f] Collins's Peerage, vol. iii. p. 617.

ſon

ſon and heir. Margaret, his widow, ſurvived him, and afterwards married Sir Nicholas Lovain.

Sir William de Pulteney, the ſon before-mentioned, by his deed, dated at Penſhurſt, in the 36th year of the ſame reign, granted to John, biſhop of Worceſter, and others, in truſt, this manor of Southall. Sir William de Pulteney died, without iſſue, in the 40th year of that reign, and left Robert de Pulteney, his kinſman, his heir; who was anceſtor to the late earl of Bath.

By two indentures, in the 48th year of that reign, John, ſon of William Revel, in purſuance of a truſt, as it ſeems, created by the above-mentioned Sir William de Pulteney, confirmed this manor to Sir Nicholas Lovain, Aubrey de Vere, and others.[a]

This family of Pulteney, who bore for their arms, *argent, a feſs dancete gules, in chief were three leopards faces, ſable*; was ſucceeded in its poſſeſſions in this place, about the latter end of king Richard II. by William Chichele,[b] citizen and grocer, of London, (third ſon of Thomas Chichele, by Agnes, daughter of William Pyncheon), and youngeſt brother of Henry Chichele, archbiſhop of Canterbury. He was ſheriff of London in 1409, and afterwards an alderman; and dying in the 4th year of king Henry VI. was buried, in the pariſh of Higham Ferrers.[c] He married Beatrice, daughter of William Barret, eſq. by whom he had two ſons, William and John, and two daughters. The ſecond ſon, John, who had this manor, was a citizen and chamberlain of London, and married Margery, daughter of Sir Thomas Knollys, by whom he had twenty-four children; one of whom, Agnes, the eldeſt daughter, married John Tatterſhall, eſq. and brought her huſband this manor, among other good eſtates in this neighbourhood; as appears by an inquiſition taken in

[a] Coll. Peer. ibid. p. 620. 621.
[b] Philipott, p. 171.
[c] Stem. Chich. præf.

the

the 25th year of king Henry VI. in which it was found that John Tatterſhall, jointly with Agnes his wife, poſſeſſed the manor of Woolwiche; conſiſting of two meſſuages, three toſts, three hundred and forty-two acres of arable, meadow, marſh, and wood, and thirty ſhillings rent in Woolwiche; and that John Tatterſhall was his ſon and heir.[a] He alienated it in the latter end of the reign of king Edward IV. to Boughton, of Burwaſh-court in the adjoining pariſh of Plumſted; in which family it remained, till it was ſold to Heydon,[b] and his deſcendant, Sir Chriſtopher Heydon, of Baconſthorp in Norfolk, poſſeſſed it in the 15th year of queen Elizabeth.[c] He alienated it to Sir Nicholas Gilbourne, of Charing, who was ſheriff of Kent in the 9th year of king James I. and his deſcendant, Henry Gilbourne, eſq. poſſeſſed it at his death, about the year 1681. His heirs paſſed away this eſtate, about the year 1701, to Richard Bowater, deſcended from thoſe of Warwick, when it at leaſt pretended to the reputation of a manor, and to be exempt from the royal manor of Woolwich; but on a hearing of this claim in 1702, before the lord chief baron Ward, and the barons of the exchequer, they decreed, that the royal manor of Eltham extended over all and every part of the pariſh of Woolwich. Upon which the abovementioned Richard Bowater agreed for himſelf and his heirs, to pay a yearly rent to that manor for this eſtate, of which his deſcendant, John Bowater, eſq. ſon of Edward, who died in 1777, is the preſent owner and reſides here. They bear for their arms, *Argent, an eſcutcheon ſable, within an orle of martlets gules.*

*The manor of Jeffrys* in this pariſh, in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, was in poſſeſſion of Henry Cheney, and was then held in *capite*.[d]

[a] Rot. Eſch. ejus anni.
[b] Philipott ibid.
[c] Rot. Eſch. ejus anni.
[d] Ibid.

King Henry VIII. in his 31ſt year, granted to Martin Bowes a large meſſuage in Wolwyche, to hold *in capite*,

Sir Edward Boughton, anno 37 king Henry VIII. conveyed to that king two parcels of land, called Bowton's Docks, and two parcels, called Our Lady-hill, and Sand-hill, in this pariſh.[a]

The monaſtery of Stratford Langthorne, in the pariſh of Ham in Eſſex, was poſſeſſed of lands in this pariſh, (lying, moſt probably, contiguous to their manſion in that part of this pariſh and county of Kent, which lies on the *Eſſex ſide* of the Thames,) called Wiklonds, the tenths of which were given, in 1155, by William, ſon of Henry de Eltham, to the monaſtery of Bermondſey, in Southwark.[b]

After the diſſolution of the monaſtery of Stratford Langthorne, king Henry VIII. in his thirty-ſecond year, granted theſe paſtures, called Wykelond, containing fifty acres, in Wolwych, to Roger Chomley, to hold *in capite*.[c]

It appears by the rolls of the 25th of queen Elizabeth, that Francis Bacon poſſeſſed much of this part of Woolwich, which joins to Eſſex; lying in Woolwich in Kent, and in Eaſt and Weſt Ham in Eſſex.

There was a family of good account ſettled in this pariſh, about the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, of the name of Barnes, or Barne, for I have ſeen it written both ways; one of which, Sir William Barnes, was a juſtice of the peace in the year 1596, (a time, Mr. Lambarde ſays, when only perſons of the higheſt reputation, and the beſt gentry, being in the commiſſion, it was an honour to every one who was named in it.) He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Peter Manwood, of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, knight

[a] Aug. off. Roll of Particulars, box E. 34.

[b] Dugd. Mon. vol. i. p. 640.

[c] Rot. eſch. ejus anni.

of

of the Bath, and bore for his arms, *Azure, three leopards faces argent.*

There is a neat *alms-houſe*, with a brick turret, in Woolwich, built for the habitation of poor widows.

## *CHARITIES.*

Sir MARTIN BOWES, a reſident of this pariſh in king Henry the VIIIth's time, gave a ſum of money from an eſtate for the lodging and ſupport of five poor widows, of which no information can be got from the company of Goldſmiths, in which it is ſuppoſed to be veſted, but there is paid to the churchwarden for the poor in money, as of Sir M. Bowes's gift, by that company, 7s. 11d. annually.

Mr. RICHARD SIMMS, and ANN his wife, in 1621, gave by will, for an habitation for poor people for ever, four tenements, ſince fallen down, the ſcite now of the annual produce of 3l.

Rev. ABRAHAM COLFE, in 1657, gave by will, a ſum to be annually diſtributed to the poor in bread, veſted in the Leatherſeller's company, of the annual produce of 8s. 8d.

WILLIAM HAWKES, in 1662, gave by will, for the like purpoſe, an acre of marſh land, let on leaſe for 999 years, now in the occupation of William Bugden, at Plumſted, at the yearly rent of 1l. and the ſum of 27l. the intereſt to be annually diſtributed for the like purpoſe, in the hands of the churchwardens, of the annual produce of 1l. 7s.

Mr. PHILIP ROBERTS, in 1639, gave by will, for the like purpoſe, a houſe recovered by a law ſuit, of the annual produce of 1l.

Sir RICHARD PRITCHARD, in 1687, gave by will, for an habitation for poor people for ever, a houſe, called the Old-Market Houſe, which being a nuiſance, was, by the ſurveyors of the highways taken down, and a watch-houſe erected on the ground in 1774.

Mrs. ANN WITHERS, in 1753, gave by will, for a ſchool-houſe, 100l. in money, and for a ſalary for a miſtreſs to teach thirty poor girls of this pariſh reading and needle-work, in money 1100l. Old S. S. Annuities, veſted in the executors of the late Mr. Healey, of Deptford, of the annual produce of 33l. and likewiſe 300l. the intereſt to be annually diſtributed to the poor in bread.

Mrs. MARY WISEMAN, in 1758, by will gave, to educate, cloath, and 10l. to apprentice ſix orphan boys (children of ſhipwrights) of this pariſh, to ſhipwrights in his Majeſty's yard at Woolwich, in money 1000l. veſted in the miniſter and principal officers of his Majeſty's dock-yard at Woolwich, increaſed to the ſum of 1550l. and two boys added to the original number, of the annual produce of 46l. 10s.

In 1731 truſtees were, by order of the veſtry applied to tak down three tenements belonging to the pariſh, ſituated at the eaſt end of the town, and in the room thereof to erect a workhouſe, for lodging, maintaining and employing the poor of this pariſh therein.

THIS PARISH is entitled for ever to place one widow in queen Elizabeth's college in Greenwich, who does not receive any aſſiſtance from this pariſh.

This pariſh is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* of Rocheſter, and *deanry* of Dartford. The church which is dedicated to St. Mary, was given, with the whole tithe, to St. Andrew Gundulph, biſhop of Rocheſter, and the monks there, by king Henry I. and he afterwards by another charter confirmed it to them.

Biſhop Gundulph, when he had ſeparated his own maintenance from that of the monks, aſſigned them this church, among others, for their ſupport, &c.[a] and he afterwards granted them the free diſpoſition of the vicarage of it.[b] The church was confirmed to the priory of Rocheſter by archbiſhop Anſelm, and ſeveral of his ſucceſſors, and by king Henry II. Biſhop Gilbert de Glanville, about the beginning of king Richard I's reign, on pretence that his predeceſſor, biſhop Gundulph, had impoveriſhed his ſee by his too large donations to the priory, diveſted them of all right and title to it. However, he reſerved and confirmed to them their antient and accuſtomed penſion of ſeven ſhillings yearly, to be received out of the profits of it, which was confirmed by ſeveral of the ſucceeding biſhops of Rocheſter.

The feaſt of the dedication of this pariſh church having been for a long time held on the vigil or eve of St. Laurence, which frequently happened, in the time of autumn, to be a day of faſting and abſtinence, on which account it could not be celebrated with the ſolemnity and reverence with which it ought. Therefore John Langdon, biſhop of Rocheſter, by his letters, in 1429, transferred the feaſt to the 5th of Octo-

[a] Dugd. Mon. vol. iii. p. 1. [b] Reg. Roff. p. 6.

ber,

ber, to be held on that day yearly.[c] Since which, the patronage of this church has continued part of the poſſeſſions of the biſhopric of Rocheſter, and remains ſo at preſent.

At the diſſolution of the priory, anno 32 Henry VIII. the penſion of ſeven ſhillings from the church of Woolwich came with the reſt of the revenues of the priory of St. Andrew into the king's hands, who, the next year, ſettled it, by his letters patent, among other premiſes, on his new-erected dean and chapter of Rocheſter, who are now entitled to it. The church was antiently valued at ten marcs. It is now valued in the king's books at 7l. 12s. 6d. and the yearly tenths at 15s. 3d.[d]

By virtue of the *commiſſion of enquiry* into the value of church livings, in 1650, out of chancery, it was returned, that Woolwich was a parſonage, with a houſe and ſome glebe land, worth fifty-five pounds per annum, one maſter William Hawks enjoying it. William Prene, rector, who died in 1464, cauſed the chapel and bell-tower of this church to be made, and was otherwiſe a good benefactor to it.

This church falling to decay, and from the great increaſe of inhabitants of late years, becoming much too ſmall to contain thoſe who uſually attended divine ſervice, they obtained of queen Anne her letters patent, by virtue of which the ſum of 1141l. 11s. 3d. was gathered by charitable contribution to repair it, and Dr. Lindſey, lord-primate of Ireland, and other well diſpoſed perſons, gave 380l. 14s. 8d. for the like purpoſe. But the building being found, upon a ſurvey, incapable of being repaired and enlarged, ſufficiently to anſwer the purpoſe, it was determined to rebuild it; and accordingly, in 1726, a piece of ground was purchaſed for the ſcite of a new church, and a new foundation was made of it; but the inhabitants ſtill finding

[c] Stev. Mon. vol. i. 456. [d] Bacon's Lib. Regis.

themſelves unable to raiſe a ſufficient ſum of money towards the finiſhing of it, petitioned the parliament for their aid towards completing it; and an act accordingly paſſed, anno 5 George II. for rebuilding this pariſh church, as one of the fifty new ones, directed to be built by the two acts of queen Anne, and directing that the ſum of three thouſand pounds ſhould be paid towards it, out of the funds ariſing by the powers given by thoſe acts; and in the 12th year of that reign another act paſſed for applying a ſum of money given by the will of Daniel Wiſeman, eſq. deceaſed, for finiſhing this new church at Woolwich. Accordingly a *new church* has been built, which ſtands on an eminence above the town; it is a handſome brick building, ornamented with ſtone, and has a ſquare tower or ſteeple at the weſt end, with a good ring of bells in it.

In this church, on the *ſouth ſide of the chancel*, is a handſome monument for Daniel Wiſeman, eſq. mentioned before as a good benefactor to the rebuilding of it, who lies buried in this church yard, obt. 1739, ætat. 65; there are no other worth mentioning in it.

## *WOOLWICH CHURCH.*

PATRON, *or by whom preſented.*—*The* BISHOP *of* ROCHESTER.

RECTORS.

*John Capellanus*, before 1214.[a]
*William Prene*, ob. Sep. 1, 1464.[b]
*William Harney* or *Hawkes*, in 1650, eject. Aug. 1662.[c]
*Thomas Lindeſay*, A. B. 1692.[d]
*Philip Stubbs*, A. M. 1695, reſig. Sep. 1699.[e]
*Tho. Gregory*, ob. Mar. 29, 1706.
*Harrington Bagshaw*, inſt. April 16, obt. May 29, 1739.[f]
*Robert Simms*, induct. 1739.
..... *Kingsman*, 1740.
*Sir Peter Rivers Gay*, bart. 1752, obt. July 20, 1790.[g]
*G. A. Thomas*, 1791. Preſent rector.

RECTORS.

a See Reg. Roff p. 11.

b He was afterwards rector of Lymmynge, but was buried in this church.

c Vide Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

d Ath. Ox. vol. ii. p. 881. 1104. and Faſti p. 210. He was afterwards D.D. dean of St. Patrick's, then promoted to the biſhopric of Killaloe, then to that of Raphoe, from whence he was tranſlated to the archbiſhopric of Armagh, and primate of all Ireland.

e He exchanged this church for the rectory of St. Alphage, London.

f Alſo curate of Bromley.

g Made prebendary of Wincheſter in 1766, and rector of Chelmsford, in Eſſex, in 1774.

## ELTHAM

LIES next to Woolwich, ſouthward, on the oppoſite ſide of the great London road. It takes its name from the two Saxon words, *eald* and *ham*, ſignifying the old town or habitation; this is about two miles acroſs each way. The town of Eltham, as it is called, ſtands in the centre of it. The high road through Farningham to Maidſtone, leads through it; at the eaſt end of it is Park-place Farm, near which the road branches off on one ſide to Bexley, and here the land is dreary and barren, and much covered with coppice wood of oak; the other leads through the hamlet of Southend, in this pariſh, towards Footſcray, and on to Maidſtone. The church ſtands in the town on the north ſide, and farther behind it Wellhall, and the large tract of woodland, as far as Shooter's-hill, bounding the high road there to Dover. The great lodge and park in which it ſtands join the ſouth ſide of the town, at a ſmall diſtance weſtward from which are the ruins of the antient palace of Eltham, and the great hall of it, called king John's-barn, ſtill remaining entire, weſtward from which are the lodges of Middle and Horn, alias Lee parks, where the lands are very low and wet; at the ſouth bounds of the pariſh is the hamlet of Modingham, where the ground riſes towards Chiſelhurſt, having a fine view of the neighbouring country.

Eltham is a pleaſant well-built town. Its nearneſs to the metropolis, and the healthineſs and pleaſantneſs of its ſituation, makes it much reſorted to by merchants and people of fortune, for their ſummer reſidence, either in their houſes or in handſome lodgings. In the 12th year of king Edward I. John de Veſci had the grant of a market, to be holden on a Tueſday weekly, within this manor of Eltham, and a fair there yearly on the feaſt of the Holy Trinity. Henry VI.

granted a confirmation of this market to his tenants in Eltham, and one fair alſo to be held there yearly on the feaſt of St. Peter and St. Paul.[a] The market has been long ſince diſcontinued, but there were four annual fairs, held on Palm Monday, Eaſter Monday, Whitſun Monday, and the 10th of October, for horſes, cattle, and toys, kept here within memory, but theſe likewiſe have been diſcontinued for ſome time.

At the NORTH-EAST extremity of this pariſh lies SHOOTER'S-HILL, over which the high road leads from London to Dover. The northern ſide of which is moſtly in Plumſted pariſh. It was ſo called, in all probability, from the archers frequently exerciſing themſelves here in ſhooting. It always was a place of much danger and dread to travellers, from the narrowneſs of the road over it, and the continual lurking neſts of thieves among the woods and coppices, with which this hill, eſpecially towards the ſouth and eaſt, was much overſpread. To remedy which, in ſome meaſure, an order was taken, in the 6th year of king Edward II. for enlarging the highway over it, according to the ſtatute made in the time of king Edward I. and king Henry IV. granted leave to Thomas Chapman to cut down, burn, and ſell all the woods and underwoods growing and adjoining to Shooter's-hill, on the ſouth ſide, and to beſtow the money raiſed thereby upon mending the highway.[b] Notwithſtanding which, this road continued ſo hollow, and narrow too, on the eaſtern deſcent of the hill, that it was impoſſible for a paſſenger, if way-laid, to eſcape falling into the ruffians hands, which gave occaſion to continual robberies being committed here, even at noon-day. To remove this nuiſance as far as poſſible in ſo public a road, the truſtees, authoriſed by parliament, for amending and improving it, in 1739, began to lay out a new road of conſiderable width, in the room of the old one, which

[a] Pat. ejus anni, No. 6, 38. [b] Philipott, p. 136.

may

may ſtill be ſeen a little to the north of it; this they at length completed, with no ſmall expence, care, and labour, to the univerſal ſatisfaction and emolument of every traveller paſſing this way.

On the ſummit of Shooter's-hill, on the north ſide, in Plumſted pariſh, there is a ſmall hamlet of houſes, among which, as you deſcend weſtward, is a handſome ſeat, built by John Lidgbird, eſq. ſheriff of this county in 1741, the year before which he had this grant of arms, being then ſtiled of Plumſted, in the county of Kent, and of Roughem, in Suffolk, viz. *Quarterly gules and azure, a chevron ermine in chief two eagles diſplayed argent.* On his death, about 1767, the property of this ſeat deſcended to his ſon, Henry Lidgbird, eſq. the preſent owner of it, but it is now inhabited by demiſe from him, by John Stanley, eſq.

At a ſmall diſtance below which, on a field which commands a moſt beautiful and extenſive proſpect, a plan was formed ſome years ago, for building a ſuperb town, and a few houſes were erected and finiſhed, but the greatneſs of the undertaking, and the inability of thoſe who had engaged in it, put an end to this deſign, and it has been for ſome time laid aſide. On the top of this hill is a mineral ſpring, which is ſaid conſtantly to overflow, and never to be frozen, in the ſevereſt winters. An account of it, by William Godbid, was printed at London, in 1617. Near the high road, though entirely obſcured by the woods on the ſouthern ſide of the eaſtern ſummit of the hill within the bounds of this pariſh is a ſeat, called Nightingale-hall, having a beautiful proſpect towards the ſouth, now the reſidence of Mr. Montague; and in the wood, on the weſtern part of the ſummit of it is a triangular tower, built in the Gothic ſtyle, erected, not many years ſince, by lady James, to the memory of her huſband, Sir William James, bart. of this pariſh, which from its ſingular appearance, cannot eſcape obſervation, and is ſeen for many miles round the country.

To

To this place of Shooter's-hill, king Henry VIII. and his queen, Catherine, came in great ſplendor from Greenwich, on May-day. They were received here by two hundred archers, all clad in green, with one perſonating Robin Hood, as their captain. He firſt ſhewed the king the ſkill of his archers in their exquiſite ſhooting, and then leading the ladies into the wood, gave them an entertainment of veniſon and wine, in green harbours and booths, adorned with gaudy pageants, and all the efforts of the romantic gallantry, then practiſed in that luxurious court.[a]

About forty years ago an antient piece of money was found at Eltham. The coin was very fair and well preſerved, owing to its remaining ſo long in the *ſtratum* of white ſand, wherein it was found. The weight of it was fifteen grains and a half; and the figure underneath will give the beſt deſcription of it.



Mr. Charles Clarke, late of Baliol-college, Oxford, in 1751, publiſhed Some Conjectures, endeavouring to prove it a coin of king Richard I. which were followed the next year by Remarks on the above Conjectures, by G. North, M. A. and F. S. A. to ſhew the improbability of the above notion, and that this coin was not of king Richard I. nor from the royal mints in any other reign, but a piece of baſe money, denominated *Penny-yard pence*, from their being ſtamped or made at Penny-yard, a place near Roſs, in Hereford-

[a] Harris's Hiſt. of Kent, p. 117.

ſhire,

ſhire, about the time of king Henry III. when this ſort of money is ſuppoſed to have begun to be made at the forges there, for the currency of the workmen employed at them.

The botaniſts have obſerved the following *ſcarce plants* in and about this pariſh:

Trachelium minus, *or ſmall Canterbury bells, near the park at Eltham, and in moſt parts of the hedges between Greenhith and Canterbury.*

Tapſus barbatus; mullein, *or* higtaper; *near the old palace here.*

Lathyrus major latifolius, *everlaſting wild pea, in the road towards Bridgin, on the right hand, about a mile from Eltham.*

Alſine cochleariæ longa facie, *found between the two parks here.*

Bupleurum auguſtifolium monſpelienſe, *narrow leaved hare's ear, growing between Eltham and Bromley.*

Juncus capite globoſo amplo, *found on Shooter's-hill.*[b]

In a garden on the north ſide of the town of Eltham, lately occupied by the Rev. Dr. Pinnell, there is a green houſe, in which were formerly kept the exotics of that eminent botaniſt, Dr. James Sherard, a liſt of which was publiſhed at London, in 1752, in folio, under the title of *Dillenii Hortus Elthamenſis ſeu Plantæ rariores in horto Jac. Sherard, Elthami in Cantio, 2 vol. cum figuris.* Another edition of this book, *Cum de Nominationibus Linnæanis*, was publiſhed at Leyden, in 1775.

In the time of William the Conqueror, *Eltham* was part of the poſſeſſions of that great prelate, Odo, biſhop of Baieux and earl of Kent, the king's half brother, of whom it was then held by Haimo, *vicecomes* or ſheriff of the county. Accordingly it is thus entered in Domeſday, under the general title of that biſhop's lands:

*Haimo the ſheriff holds of the biſhop (of Baieux) Alteham. It was taxed at 1 ſuling and a half. The ara-*

[b] Johnſon's Gerarde's Herbal, p. 449, 773. Merrett's Pinax, p. 4, 17, 67.

*ble*

*ble land is* 12 *carucates. In demeſne there are* 2 *carucates and* 44 *villeins, with* 12 *borderers having* 11 *carucates. There are* 9 *ſervants, and* 22 *acres of meadow. There is wood for the pannage of* 50 *hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confeſſor it was worth* 16 *pounds, when he received it* 12 *pounds, and now* 20 *pounds. Alwold held it of the king.*

On the diſgrace of the biſhop of Baieux, about four years after, all his eſtates were confiſcated to the crown. This palace afterwards belonged partly to the king and partly to the Mandevils, from whom it came to be called *Eltham Mandevil.* King Edward I. gave his part of Eltham, with lands in Northumberland, and other places, in the 9th year of his reign, to John, ſon of William de Veſci, a potent baron of the north, who had the year before married Iſabel de Beaumont, queen Eleanor's kinſwoman. In the 12th year of that reign he procured a charter for a weekly market here on a Tueſday, and a fair yearly on the eve of the Holy Trinity and the two following days. In the 14th year of it, having obtained the king's conſent, he gave the ſixth part of the manor of Luton, in Bedfordſhire, in exchange to Walter de Mandevil for his part of Eltham, and died without iſſue in the 17th year of the ſame reign, holding the manor of Eltham of the king by knight's ſervice, and leaving William his brother his heir, and Iſabel his wife, ſurviving.

William de Veſci was ſummoned to parliament in the 23d year of that reign, and having married Iſabel, daughter of Adam de Periton, widow of Robert de Welles, had by her an only ſon, John, who died without iſſue in his life time, upon which, having no lawful iſſue ſurviving, in the 24th year of that reign he enfeoffed that great prelate, Anthony Beke, biſhop of Durham and patriarch of Jeruſalem, in ſeveral of his eſtates, among which was the inheritance of Eltham, then held by Iſabel, widow of John de Veſci, afterwards wife of Adam de Welles, for her life, upon the ſpecial truſt, that

that he ſhould retain them for the uſe of William de Veſci,[a] his baſtard ſon, by Dergavile, his concubine, daughter of Dunwald, a petty prince in Ireland, the year after which he died at Malton. This William the baſtard, commonly called William de Veſci of Kildare, married Maud, widow of Thomas Nevil, of Chetham, and was ſlain in the battle of Strivelin in Scotland, (commonly called the battle of Bannockſburne) in 8th king Edward II. having been ſummoned to parliament in the 6th year of that reign.[b] He bore for his arms, *Gules a croſs argent.*[c]

The family of Veſci was deſcended from Yvo de Veſci, a Norman, who came over with the Conqueror, and through his power married Alda, only daughter and heir of William Tyſon, lord of the large baronies of Alnwicke, in Northumberland, and Malton, in Yorkſhire, and ſon of Gilbert Tyſon, who was ſlain fighting for king Harold, in the battle of Haſtings; by her he had an only daughter and heir, Beatrix, who married Euſtace Fitz-John, one of the chief peers of England, and of intimate familiarity with king Henry I.

On the death of William de Veſci the baſtard without iſſue, (who does not ſeem to have ever been in poſſeſſion of Eltham-houſe, as will be ſhewn below) the manor of Eltham deſcended to Gilbert Aton, by the diſpoſition of his kinſman, William Veſci, the father, whoſe right heir he was.[d]

This Sir Gilbert de Aton, lord Veſci, bore for his arms, *Barry of ſix or and azure, on a canton gules a croſs flory argent.*[e] He granted the manor of Eltham Mandevil, with all thoſe hereditaments in the county of Kent, which had been part of the poſſeſſions of Wil-

[a] This grant is among the MSS. of Mr. Roger Dodſworth, in the Bodleian library, No. 4172. vol. xxx. as marked in the printed Catalogue.

[b] Philipott, p. 139. Dugd. Baron. vol. i. p. 94, 95.

[c] Camb. Brit. p. 911. [d] Cook's Bar. MSS.

[e] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 90. and vol. ii. p. 98. Cook's Bar. MSS. Harl. MSS. No. 6111-13.

liam

liam de Veſci, of Kildare, to Geoffrey le Scrope, of Maſham, who obtained the king's confirmation of them in the 11th year of king Edward II. But it ſeems he had only a term in this manor, for when Edward III. in his 4th year, took him into favour, and again made him chief juſtice of the King's-bench, of which he had been diſpoſſeſſed for his too great credit with the late king, he gave him the inheritance of this manor of Eltham Mandevil, to hold by the accuſtomed ſervices. He was afterwards advanced to the dignity of a *banneret*, with the grant of two hundred *marcs* per annum, for the ſupport of that honour, and died in the 13th year of that reign, at which time the court of this manor, ſtiled *Curia de Mandevil*, was then held ſometimes at Eltham, and at other times at Woolwich. Soon after which, but by what means I have not found, this manor came into the poſſeſſion of the crown; where the inheritance of it has continued ever ſince, but there have been ſeveral grants made of it from time to time, ſome for terms of years, and others for lives, by the ſucceſſive kings and queens of England.

King Henry VIII. in his 14th year, granted the farm and lands of Eltham and other premiſes, for the term of forty years to Sir Henry Guildford.[a] In the latter end of that reign, the manor of Eltham was in the poſſeſſion of Sir Thomas Speke, on whoſe death, king Edward VI. by his letters patent, in his 5th year, granted to Sir John Gates, among other premiſes here, this his manor, with all its appurtenances, as well within his parks of Eltham, as without, and all other franchiſes, courts, and views of frankpledge, belonging to it, which came into the king's hands by the death of Sir Thomas Speke, to hold for life, at the yearly rent of 31l. and 20d.[b] In the 10th year of queen Elizabeth, William Cromer, eſq. was poſſeſſed of the queen's manor of Eltham. In the reign of king Charles I. the earl of

[a] Coll. Bar. vol. v. p. v. [b] Aug. Off. Inrolments.

Dorſet

Dorſet ſeems to have been in poſſeſſion of thoſe lands belonging to this manor demiſed by the crown, which, after the king's death, were in the poſſeſſion of Sir Thomas Walſingham, who was high-ſteward of it.

The manor of Eltham was in the hands of the crown at the death of king Charles I. in 1648, and became afterwards veſted in the ſtate, who paſſed an ordinance the next year for the ſurvey and ſale of it, for the benefit of the public. After which, the manor, with its appurtenances, the manor-houſe, parks, lodges, and the other premiſes, late belonging to the king, were ſold to different perſons, in whoſe poſſeſſion they continued till the reſtoration of king Charles II. in 1660, when they again became part of the royal eſtates.

Sir John Shaw having purchaſed a ſubſiſting term of this manor, king Charles II. in conſideration of the eminent ſervices performed by him, and of promiſes made before, had granted to him, in the year 1663, a new and longer term of it, which, about thirty-five years ago, was renewed, and it is now in the poſſeſſion of his great-great grandſon, Sir John Shaw, of Eltham-lodge, bart. as leſſee under the crown, to whom the inheritance belongs.

This manor extends over all the pariſh of Eltham, the hamlet of Mottingham, the townſhip of Woolwich, and the ſouth ſide of Foot's-cray, in the pariſh of Cheſilhurſt. The jury appoints two conſtables and two ale taſters for Eltham, a borſholder for Mottingham, and a borſholder for the part of Foot's-cray within its juriſdiction, and the tenants of the manor are all free tenants.

The KING'S-HOUSE, or ELTHAM-PALACE, was built moſt probably on part of thoſe premiſes which were granted by king Edward I. in his 9th year, to John de Veſci, as has been mentioned before, and perhaps on the very ſcite of the houſe where king Henry III. in his 55th year, kept his Chriſtmas publicly, according

to

to the cuſtom of thoſe times, being accompanied by the queen and all the great men of the realm.[a]

In the next reign of king Edward I. Anthony Beke, biſhop of Durham, in whom the lands and poſſeſſions of Veſci, in Eltham, were then veſted after reſerving to himſelf an eſtate for life, granted the reverſion of Eltham-houſe, with its appurtenances, to the crown.[b] He died here in the 4th year of king Edward II. after having beſtowed great coſt on his buildings at this place. The biſhop of Durham being dead, king Edward II. kept his reſidence here; where, in his 9th year, his queen was delivered of a ſon, called, from the place of his birth, *John of Eltham*. About which time the *Statutes of Eltham*, which contain precedents for the government of the king's houſe to this day, were made at this palace.

King Edward III. in his 4th year, called a parliament to meet at Eltham; for adjoining to ſeveral of the antient palaces of the kings of England, there was a large room or hall for the accommodation of the parliament, and other large meetings and feſtivities, which in ſome was called the parliament chamber; in others, the hall of the reſpective palace ſerved for theſe purpoſes, of which laſt ſort was Weſtminſter-hall, and the hall of this palace of Eltham, in which moſt likely theſe parliaments were held; the latter is ſtill ſtanding, and is a noble and ſpacious building of free-ſtone, well adapted to the purpoſe of holding ſo large an aſſembly. It is now converted into a barn, and is commonly called *King John's barn*, and ſtands on part of the ſcite of the old palace. The ſame king, in his 38th year, intending to give a princely reception to king John of France, who had been his priſoner in England, and then came over to viſit him, received him at Eltham, where he entertained him with great magnificence. Edward III.

[a] Matt. Paris, p. 858. [b] Camb. Brit. p. 222. Philip: p: 135:

again

again held a parliament here in his 50th year, when the lords and commons attended him with a petition, among other matters, to make his grandſon, Richard of Bourdeaux, ſon and heir of Edward, (late prince of Wales and heir apparent of the realm) *Prince of Wales*.[c] Leonel, third ſon of king Edward III. and guardian of the realm (the king being at that time carrying on his wars in France) kept his Chriſtmas here, in the 20th year of that reign.

King Richard II. reſided much at his manor of Eltham, taking great delight in the pleaſantneſs of the place; in the 10th year of whoſe reign, the king, with his queen and court, keeping their Chriſtmas here with much feſtivity, received *Leo, king of Armenia*, who had been driven out of his dominions by the Turks, and entertained him ſumptuouſly.

King Henry IV. reſided much here, where he kept his laſt Chriſtmas, and being taken ſick, was carried to London, where he ſoon after died. His ſon and ſucceſſor, king Henry V. in his 3d year, lay here, with a deſign of keeping his Chriſtmas with much feaſting, but was forced to leave the place abruptly, on the diſcovery of a plot, in which ſome had conſpired to murder him. King Henry VI. made it his principal place of reſidence, keeping his Chriſtmas royally here, with much ſplendour and feaſting, in his 8th year. In his 17th year, he renewed, by charter, to the tenants of his manor of Eltham, their market, with large additional privileges, as may be ſeen in the original record of that year, in the tower of London.[d]

King Edward IV. repaired this houſe with much coſt, and incloſed Horne-park, ſo called from its being the ſcite of the manor of Horne, which was antiently the king's demeſne, as appears by the grant of king Ed-

[c] Lamb. Peram. p. 579. Rym. Fœd. vol. iv. p. 422, 423. Selden on Parliaments, p. 23. Cot. Rec. p. 123.

[d] Rym. Fœd. vol. viii. p. 536 et ſeq. Kilb. p. 95. Rap. vol. i. p. 462. Philipott, p. 135. Lamb. Per. p. 579.

ward III. in his 21ſt year, to all his tenants of this manor to be toll-free throughout England. Bridget, this king's 4th daughter, was born here, in the 20th year of his reign, and the next day was baptized in the chapel here, by the biſhop of Chicheſter. She afterwards became a nun at Dartford, in this county. Two years afterwards that king kept a ſplendid Chriſtmas here, with great feaſtings, two thouſand people being fed at his expence every day.

King Henry VII. built a handſome front to this palace, towards the moat, and was uſually reſident here, and, as appears by a record in the office of arms, moſt commonly dined in the great hall of this place, and all his officers kept their tables in it.[a] King Henry VIII. neglecting this palace, built much at Greenwich, though he ſometimes reſided here, particularly in his 7th year, when keeping his Whitſuntide at Eltham, he created Sir Edward Stanley, knt. for his good ſervices performed againſt the Scots, at Flodden-field, *Lord Monteagle*, at which time, by reaſon of ſome infection then reigning in London, none were permitted to dine in the King's-hall, but the officers of arms, who, at the ſerving in the king's ſecond courſe of meat, according to cuſtom, came and proclaimed the king's ſtile, and then that of the new lord. The king kept his Chriſtmas royally here, with balls and much feaſting that year, as he did again in 1527, yet being more pleaſed with his neighbouring palace of Greenwich, he neglected this more and more, ſo that in a few years it was in a manner totally deſerted by the royal family.

By the ſurvey, taken by the ſtate after Charles I.'s death, in 1648, it appears, that the capital manſion-houſe, built with brick, ſtone, and timber, called Eltham-houſe, conſiſted of a fair chapel, a great hall, thirty-ſix rooms and offices below ſtairs, with two

[a] Lamb. Per. p. 579. Philip. p. 135. Sandf. Gen. Hiſt. p. 396.

large

large cellars; and above ſtairs, in lodgings, called the king's ſide, ſeventeen lodging rooms, and on the queen's ſide, twelve lodging rooms, and on the prince's ſide, nine lodging rooms, in all thirty-eight, with various other neceſſary rooms and cloſets, and thirty-five bayes of building round the court-yard, which contained one acre of ground, and the ſaid bayes of building contained about ſeventy-eight rooms, uſed as offices. The whole being much out of repair, the materials were valued at 2753l. excluſive of the charge of taking down. That the great park contained five hundred and ninety-ſix acres; that the deer were all deſtroyed, and the park diſparked by the ſoldiery and common people, and the trees in this park (beſides ſuch as were marked out for the uſe of the navy) were a thouſand and ſixty, being old and decayed; that there was due to the vicar, in lieu of tithes in the great park, the running of one horſe or gelding, or the keep of two cows, worth four pounds per annum, excepting which, all the premiſes were tithe free; that the little or middle park, adjoining to the other next Mottingham, contained three hundred and thirty-three acres; that the lodge belonging to it lay in the middle of it, but the park was deſtroyed as well as the former; that the trees in it (beſides thoſe marked for the navy, being one thouſand) were three hundred and twenty-four; that the parcel of impaled ground, called Horne, alias Lee-park, in Eltham and Lee, contained three hundred and thirty-ſix acres; that the deer in it were deſtroyed as well as in the others, and the trees in it were two thouſand ſix hundred and twenty, old and worn out; that the demeſne lands, with the parks, &c. mentioned above, were one thouſand ſix hundred and fifty-two acres, of which the total value was 860l. 19s. 2d. and improvements of them, 202l. 6s. 7d. and that the ſum of forty ſhillings was payable always to the vicar, for or in lieu of tithes of hay, by reaſon of certain mea-

dows and paddocks, laid into the middle or little park.[a]

After this ſurvey, the manor, with its appurtenances, the houſe, parks, the lodges, and other premiſes, were ſold to different perſons, in whoſe poſſeſſion they remained till the reſtoration of king Charles II. in 1660, when the inheritance of them returned again to the crown.

Sir John Shaw was then in poſſeſſion of the manor of Eltham, the king's houſe, the three parks, the great, the middle, and Weſt Horne, alias Lee parks, and the demeſnes above mentioned; and Charles II. in conſideration of his eminent ſervices, granted to him a *long term* of them, which has been from time to time renewed, ſince which this family have conſtantly reſided here, at the *great manor lodge*, which ſtands in the great park, adjoining to the town of Eltham. This lodge has been fitted up and greatly improved within theſe few years, and is now the reſidence of Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart. the great-great grandſon of him before mentioned. There is a yearly fee-farm rent paid for the great park to the crown of 153l. 3s. 4d.

The *family of Shaw* derive themſelves from the county palatine of Cheſter. Hugo de Shaw, of that county, behaving himſelf well under the earl of Cheſter, in an enterpriſe againſt Lewellin, prince of Wales, near the caſtle of Ruthin, had ſeveral manors, and a daughter of the earl given him in marriage.

Randal de Shaw, his ſon, of Haſlington-hall, married a daughter of Reginald Venables, of Agdon, in that county; from whom, in a lineal deſcent, after ſeveral generations, was Robert Shaw of Haſlington-hall, whoſe deſcendant was Robert Shaw of London, and of Shaw's-court, in Surry, who had by Chriſtiana, daughter of William Donnelaw, merchant, three ſons, Robert, Sir John Shaw, and George of Antwerp.

[a] Parl. Surveys, Augmentation Off.

Sir

Sir John Shaw, beſides other conſiderable rewards, had the dignity of a Baronet conferred on him by letters patent, dated April 15, 1665, for the aſſiſtance he had given king Charles II. at Bruſſels and Antwerp, during his exile. He had two wives, firſt, Anne, daughter of Sir Joſeph Aſhe, by whom he had Sir John, his ſucceſſor, of whom hereafter; he married ſecondly Bridget, relict of Charles, viſcount Kilmorey, and daughter and coheir of Sir William Drury of Beſthorp, in Norfolk, by whom he had ſeveral children, from whom there are no deſcendants now remaining. Sir John Shaw, bart. only ſon by the firſt wife, ſucceeded his father, who died in 1721, in title and eſtate, and married two wives, firſt Margery, daughter and ſole heir of Sir John Peake, lord mayor of London, by whom he had Sir John, his ſucceſſor, and two daughters. His ſecond wife was Sarah, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Paggen of London, merchant, by whom he had three ſons, William Shaw of Cheſhunt-houſe, in Hertfordſhire; Paggen and Peter Shaw, merchants; and ſix daughters. Sir John Shaw, bart. eldeſt ſon by the firſt wife, ſucceeded his father in dignity and eſtate, and married Anna Maria, eldeſt daughter and coheir of Sir Tho. Barnardiſton, bart. of Ketton, in Suffolk, by whom he had Sir John, his ſucceſſor, and a daughter, Anna Maria, married to Peter Delme, eſq. He died in 1739, and was ſucceeded by his only ſurviving ſon, the late Sir John Shaw, bart. of Eltham-lodge, who married Elizabeth, daughter of William Hedges of Alderton, in Wiltſhire, by whom he left no iſſue; he married ſecondly Martha, daughter and heir of John Kenward, eſq. of Yalding, by whom he left two ſons, John Gregory, the preſent baronet, born in 1756, and John Kenward, now of Town Malling, and vicar of this pariſh. Sir John Shaw, bart. died in 1779, and was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon, Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart. who, in 1782, married Catharine, ſiſter of

John lord Monſon, by whom he has iſſue ſeveral children. He bears for his arms, *Argent, a chevron between three fuſils, ermine.*[a]

HENLEY's was antiently a place of ſome note in this pariſh. In the reign of king Edward III. it was eſteemed a manor, and belonged to John de Henley, whoſe houſe here was moated round. On his death, without iſſue, it came by his gift to king Edward III. and was annexed to the manor of Eltham by William de Brantingham, his feoffee.[b] The houſe was ſituated below the Conduit-head, in a field, at this time called the Conduit-field.

The MANOR OF EASTHORNE and the MANSION of WELLHALL were, in the 1ſt year of king Henry I. poſſeſſed by Sir Jordan de Briſet, a wealthy and pious man, who was lord of Clerkenwell, where he founded a nunnery. He afterwards gave the nuns there ten acres of land, in his lordſhip of Welynghall, in Kent, in return for ten acres which they had granted him, on which he founded his hoſpital of Knights Hoſpitallers of St. John of Jeruſalem, being the firſt of that order eſtabliſhed in England. He bore for his arms, *A griffin volant.*

Sir Jordan de Briſet died in the 11th of Henry I. and was buried in the chapter-houſe of the hoſpital of St. John, as was Muriel his wife afterwards.[c] By her he left three daughters and coheirs, the two youngeſt of whom died without iſſue. The eldeſt, Lecia, married firſt Sir Henry Foliot, from whom came the family of that name in Worceſterſhire; ſecondly Sir William Mountenay of Eſſex, from whom deſcended the Mountenays of that county.

In the reign of king Edward I. Matthew de Hegham held this eſtate, ſituated within the manor of Horne, by reaſon of Dower, of Arnold de Mandevil.

[a] Coll. Baronetage, vol. iv. p. 465. Kimb. Bar. vol. ii. p. 320.
[b] Philipott, p. 135. [c] Dudg. vol. ii. p. 505.

In

In the 20th year of king Edward III. Sir John de Pulteney (a man of great account at that time, and owner of large poſſeſſions in this neighbourhood) held it in like manner. He died in the 23d year of the ſame reign, leaving William de Pulteney his ſon and heir; Margaret his widow ſurviving afterwards married Sir Nicholas Lovain. William de Pulteney, the ſon, was afterwards knighted, and died without iſſue in the 40th year of that reign, and left his kinſman, Robert de Pulteney, his heir.

This family was ſucceeded in its poſſeſſions in this place, about the latter end of Richard II.'s reign, by William Chichele, citizen and grocer of London, third ſon of Thomas Chichele, and younger brother of the archbiſhop of that name. He died in the 4th year of king Henry VI. leaving by Beatrice, his wife, daughter of William Barret, eſq. two ſons and two daughters. John, the youngeſt ſon, had this eſtate. He was a citizen and chamberlain of London, and married Margery, daughter of Sir Thomas Knollys, and by her had twenty-four children, of whom Agnes, the eldeſt daughter, married John Tatterſall, eſq. and brought her huſband the manor of Eaſthorne and Wellhall, beſides other eſtates at Woolwich and elſewhere in this neighbourhood. By the inquiſition taken anno 25 king Henry VI. after the deceaſe of John Tatterſall, he was found to die poſſeſſed of the manor of Eaſthorne and Wellhall, and that John Tatterſall was his ſon and heir, of whom I can find no farther mention.

Agnes, widow of John Tatterſall the father, afterwards married Sir William Kene, who was ſheriff of Kent anno 26 Henry VI. and reſided at Wellhall, which he held in her right.[d] By her former huſband, John Tatterſall, ſhe had two daughters and coheirs, Anne married to Sir Ralph Haſtings, and Margery to

[d] Philipott, p. 135.

John Roper of Swacliffe, who in her right became poſſeſſed of the inheritance of the manor of Eaſthorne and Wellhall.[a]

This *family of Roper* derived their original from Haculf Muſard, who, in the Conqueror's time, was as eminent for his virtue and piety as for his opulence. His manors, from his being ſeated at Miſerden, in Glouceſterſhire, were in general, though lying in different counties, comprehended under the name of *Baronia de Miſerden*. He was ſucceeded by his ſon, Richard, who died anno 33 Henry II. whoſe younger ſon, William, was ſurnamed Rubra Spatha, and Rougeſpe, which was afterwards contracted to Roper, from one of whoſe poſterity, about the reign of king Edward I. as ſome antient evidences affirm, the Ropers of the county of Kent derive their deſcent, and from whom likewiſe the Ropers of Nottinghamſhire and Derbyſhire, who continued till king Henry VI.'s reign, derived their original; at which time Iſolda, only daughter of John Roper of Turndich, marrying Richard, eldeſt ſon of Richard Furneaux of Beighton, in Derbyſhire, he covenanted, that his ſon and all his iſſue by her ſhould thenceforth forſake their paternal name, and aſſume that of Roper, from whence deſcended the Ropers, viſcounts Baltinglaſs, barons of Bantre, in Ireland, and thoſe of Hull, in Yorkſhire.

Among others of this name, who flouriſhed in thoſe early times, was William Roſper, or De Rubra Spatha, who in the reign of king Henry III. was a great benefactor to St. Martin's priory, in Dover. John de Rubra Spatha or Roſper, did eminent ſervice in Scotland, under king Edward III. who rewarded him and William Clifford (as appears by a pedigree recorded in the duke of Dorſet's pedigree) about the 29th year

[a] Philipott, p. 95, 135. Atk. Glouc. p. 293. Dugd. Warw. p. 312. Rym. Fœd. vol. vii. p. 178, 211.

of

of his reign, with the third part of thoſe forfeitures which were due from the Jews then inhabiting in London, for the violation of ſome penal ſtatutes, which had been enacted againſt them. In the 1ſt year of king Richard II. the king calling on his ſubjects for money on an emergency, John Ropere of Canterbury, lent forty pounds to furniſh out a fleet againſt the French and Scots; and Henry Ropere of Redyng, next year lent the king twenty pounds for the like occaſions.

The *heraldic viſitation* of this county, taken by John Philipott, *rouge dragon*, in 1619, begins the pedigree of this family with Edwin Roper, of the county of Kent, whoſe ſon, Adam Roper, had two ſons, Thomas, and Edmund, who was prior of Bilſington, in this county.

Thomas Roper married the daughter of Thomas de Apuldore, and by her had one ſon and heir, Ralph, who was twice married, firſt to Beatrix, daughter of Sir Thomas Lewknor, and ſecondly to the daughter of Thomas Kempe of Wye.

By his firſt wife he had John, who died without iſſue, in 1401; Agnes, married to Walter Culpeper, eſq. of Bedgbury, and Edmund, who was of St. Dunſtan's, and an eminent man in the reigns of Henry IV. and V. under whom he was a juſtice of the peace for this county. He died in the 12th year of Henry VI. and was buried in the church of St. Dunſtan's, leaving two ſons, John Roper of Swacliffe, eſq. and Edmund. John Roper, the eldeſt ſon, was of Swacliffe, and ſucceeded his father likewiſe at St. Dunſtan's. He was one of the ſurveyors of the cuſtoms of the cinque ports under king Henry VII. in his 19th year. He married Margery, daughter and coheir of John Tatterſall before mentioned, and died in the end of the year 1488. He had by her two ſons, John Roper, who in right of his mother, who ſurvived her huſband, and dying, anno 10 Henry VIII. was buried in

in the antient chancel of the Tatterſalls, in this church, became poſſeſſed of the manor of Eaſthorne and Welhall, and Thomas, to whom his father left, by his will, Brenley, in Boughton-under-Blean, and a daughter, Margery, wife of John Boys of Nonington, in Kent. John Roper, the eldeſt ſon, was of Wellhall and St. Dunſtan's; he was ſheriff of this county in the 12th year of king Henry VIII. and afterwards attorney-general and prothonotary of the King's-bench, as appears by the inſcription on his monument, in St. Dunſtan's church. He died in 1524, leaving by Jane his wife, daughter of Sir John Fineux, chief-juſtice of England, ſeveral ſons and daughters. Of the ſons, Chriſtopher the younger was ſeated at Linſted-lodge, from whom deſcended the Ropers, lords Teynham, and the late Trevor Roper, lord Dacre.

William Roper, the eldeſt ſon, born in 1495, was prothonotary of the King's-bench, and ſucceeded his father in his eſtate here and at St. Dunſtan's, whoſe lands were *diſgavelled* by the acts paſſed in the 31ſt of king Henry VIII. and in the 2d and 3d years of king Edward VI. He was ſheriff of Kent in the 1ſt and 2d years of Philip and Mary, and married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Moore, lord chancellor of England. He died in 1577, aged 82, and was buried in the vault under the chapel, joining to the chancel, in St. Dunſtan's church, next to Margaret his wife, who, as her inſcription informs us, was a woman moſt learned in the Greek and Latin tongues.[a] He left by her two ſons and three daughters, of the former, Anthony, the youngeſt ſon, ſettled at Farningham in this county; and Thomas the eldeſt ſucceeded his father, as well in his eſtates of Eaſthorne and Wellhall, and St. Dunſtan's, as in his place of prothonotary of the King's-bench. Thomas Roper, eſq. the eldeſt ſon, was of Eltham, and married Lucy,

[a] Wood's Ath. vol. i. p. 42.

ſiſter

ſiſter of Anthony Browne, viſc. Montacute, by whom he had ten ſons and ten daughters. He died in 1597.

William Roper, the eldeſt ſon, ſucceeded his father at Wellhall and St. Dunſtan's, and was afterwards knighted. He married Catharine, daughter and coheir of Sir Anthony Browne, of Ridley-hall, chief-juſtice of the court of common-pleas, by whom he had two ſons, Anthony Roper of Well-hall, in Eltham, and Thomas, who married Suſan, daughter of John Winchcombe of Henwick, in Berkſhire, and one daughter.

Anthony Roper ſucceeded his father in the manor of Eaſthorne, and in Wellhall, in this pariſh, and in St. Dunſtan's before mentioned, and married three wives, firſt Maria, daughter of William Gerarde, eſq. of Trent, in Somerſetſhire, by whom he had one daughter, Margaret; ſecondly Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Holte, eſq. of Warwickſhire, by whom he left no iſſue; and thirdly a daughter of Sir Henry Compton of Bramble-tye, in Suſſex, a younger brother of William, firſt earl of Northampton, by whom he had iſſue Edward his ſucceſſor. Edw. Roper, eſq. was of Wellhall and St. Dunſtan's, and married Catharine, daughter of James Butler, eſq. of Suſſex, by whom he left a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Edw. Henſhaw, eſq. of Hampſhire, and becoming her father's ſole heir, brought her huſband this eſtate of Wellhall, as well as the antient paternal ſeat and inheritance of the Ropers, in St. Dunſtan's. This elder branch of the family of Roper bore for their coat armour a coat of *twelve quarterings*; viz. 1. *Roper per feſs azure and or, a pale and three roebucks heads eraſed counterchanged*; 2. *Apledore*; 3. *St. Laurence*; 4. *Tatterſall*; 5. *Apulderfield*; 6. *Appleton*; 7. *Twite*; 8. *Browne*; 9. *Swan*; 10. *Francis*; 11. *Champneis*; 12. *Roper, as before.* Theſe twelve quarterings were atteſted to belong to this branch of Roper by John Philipott, Somerſet herald.

Mr.

Mr. Henſhaw died in 1726, leaving three daughters and coheirs; Catharine married to William Strickland, eſq. Elizabeth to Sir Edward Dering, bart. and the third daughter to Sir Rowland Wynne, bart.

They joined in the ſale of the manors of Eaſthorne and Wellhall, about the year 1733, to Sir Gregory Page of Wrickleſmarſh, bart. who pulled down the manſion of Wellhall, and built a handſome farm houſe in the room of it, which, with the demeſnes belonging to it, continued in Sir Gregory Page's poſſeſſion at his death, in 1775, and he, by his will bequeathed this eſtate to his nephew, Sir Gregory Turner Page, bart. of Oxfordſhire, in tail, the preſent poſſeſſor of it.

Wellhall farm now conſiſts of about two hundred acres of land, let at about two hundred pounds per annum. In the great hall of this manſion was a moſt valuable painting, done by Hans Holbein, of Sir Thomas More, lord chancellor, and his family, in all about twelve figures, all drawn with great ſtrength and beauty, and ſo large as to take up almoſt the whole end of the hall. It was valued at one thouſand pounds, and had remained here from the time of its being painted till the year 1731, when Sir Rowland Wynne removed it from hence, about the time the eſtate was ſold.[a]

CORBYE, alias CORBYN-HALL, was once a place of ſome account in Eltham, though the name of it at preſent is hardly known by any one. It was once the ſeat of a family of the name of Corbie, who, as early as the reign of king Henry III. had an eſtate likewiſe at Whithurſt, in Marden, in this county. Their eſtates, by Joan, daughter of Robert Corbie, came to Sir Nicholas Wotton, who, anno 3 Henry V. was mayor of London. But in the reign of Edward VI.

[a] Granger's Biog. Hiſt. vol. i. p. 76, where there is an account of this picture.

this

this place was in the hands of the crown, for that king, by his letters patent, in his 5th year, granted, among other premiſes, to Sir John Gates, for his life, the houſe or tenement called Corbye, alias Corbyn-hall, with its appurtenances, in Eltham, and one cottage, with the garden and appurtenances near the ſcite of the pariſh church at Eltham, at the yearly rent of 6s. 8d. and then in the king's hands, by the death of Sir Thomas Speke;[b] and queen Elizabeth, in 1592, granted a leaſe of it to the lord Cobham, ſince which this houſe ſeems to have continued in the crown, and to have been blended with the reſt of its poſſeſſions in this pariſh.

PARK-PLACE FARM is a ſeat in this pariſh, ſituated near the eaſt end of the town of Eltham, at no great diſtance from the high-road. It was formerly in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Richard Nunn, whoſe widow Sarah on his death became poſſeſſed of it for her life, and reſided in it. At her deceaſe it came to the lady Mary Henrietta, the wife of John viſcount Hinchingbrooke, their grand-daughter, being the only ſurviving child of their daughter Henrietta, by lord Harry Powlett, afterwards duke of Bolton, and ſhe poſſeſſed it by inheritance, by virtue of her grandfather's will. She ſold it to Thomas Lucas, eſq. of Lee, who quickly afterwards again diſpoſed of it, about the year 1775, to William James, eſq. M. P. for Weſt Looe, and a director of the Eaſt India company, who having almoſt rebuilt the houſe, and incloſed a park round it, gave it the above name of *Park-place farm*. On July 25, 1778, he was created a baronet, and dying in 1784, left the poſſeſſion of it to his widow, who is now entitled to it, but it is demiſed by her to Sir Benjamin Hammett, who now reſides in it.

The HAMLET of SOUTHEND, in this pariſh, is ſituated about a mile eaſtward from the town of El-

[b] Harris's Hiſt. Kent, p. 117. Augm. Inrolm.

tham,

tham, on the high road to Maidſtone, on which there is a ſeat, which formerly was the reſidence of Sir William Wythens, the ſon of Robert Wythens, ſheriff of London and alderman, deſcended from the county palatine of Cheſter.[a] In his deſcendants it continued down to Sir Francis Wythens, ſergeant at law, who died poſſeſſed of it in 1704, bearing for his arms, *Gules a chevron embattled between three martlets or*, which arms were confirmed to them by Sir William Dethie, garter, in 1593. This eſtate ſoon after came into the poſſeſſion of Rich. Comport Fitch, eſq. who reſided here, by whoſe daughter and heir, Anne, it went in marriage to Sir Thomas Fitch, who, in 1688, had been created a baronet, and died not many days after, on which it deſcended to Sir Comport Fitch, bart. of this place, whoſe ſole daughter and heir, Alice, carried in marriage, in 1740, to Sir John Barker, bart. of Sproughton, in Suffolk, who in 1759 married Lucy, daughter of Sir Richard Lloyd. He died without iſſue, and left it by his will to Robert Naſſau, only brother of the honourable Rich. Savage Naſſau, eldeſt ſon of the earl of Rochford, who ſold it to Mr. Burgeſs, who not long afterwards alienated it to Mrs. Anne Greene, widow, who now reſides in it.

MOTTINGHAM is a hamlet which lies partly in this pariſh and partly in that of Cheſilhurſt, at about a mile diſtance ſouthward from Eltham church. It was antiently called Modingham, from the Saxon words *modig*, proud or lofty, and *ham*, a dwelling.

In king Edward the Confeſſor's confirmation of the gift of Elthruda, king Alfred's niece, of the manor of Lewiſham, and its appendages, to the abbey of St. Peter of Ghent in Flanders, in 1044, *Modingeham* is mentioned as one of them belonging to that manor, but the ſucceeding grants of Lewiſham

[a] Viſitat. Co. Kent, an. 1619, Pedigree, Wythens.

manor

manor make no mention of this place. In the reign of Edward I. it paſſed as an appendage to the manor of Eltham, in the grant made by that king to John de Veſci, ſince which it has always been conſidered as part of it, which at this time claims over the whole of this hamlet. The bounds and extent of the hamlet of *Modyngham* are thus deſcribed in an antient manuſcript, remaining among the regiſters of the biſhops of Rocheſter.

*Memorandum.* That the lordſhip of *Modynham* begins at Readhelde, and extends to the wood of the lord biſhop, called *Elmyſtediſwood* towards the ſouth, and to the field, called *Charlesfield*, towards the weſt, and to the woods and lands of the king in Eltham towards the north and eaſt.[b]

In the beginning of the reign of king William Rufus, Anſgotus of Cheſilhurſt, the king's chamberlain, was poſſeſſed of the fee of this hamlet, and then gave the tithes of it to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rocheſter, as will be further mentioned. In the beginning of king Edward III.'s reign, a family of the name of Legh was poſſeſſed of certain tenements, with the lands and appurtenances belonging to them, in Modingham and Cheſilhurſt. From one of that name they paſſed to Thomas de Bankwell, who, at his deceaſe in the 35th year of that reign, was found to die poſſeſſed of certain tenements, late Leghs, in Modingham and Cheſilhurſt, held of the king in *gavelkind*, as of his manor of Eltham, by the ſervice of 14s. 11d. per annum rent, and performing ſuit to the king's-court of Eltham. Theſe premiſes, in the 24th year of king Henry VI. were in the poſſeſſion of Robert Cheeſeman, of Lewiſham and Eaſt Greenwich, who, by his marriage with Joane, daughter of Bernard Cavell of Cheſilhurſt, had conſiderably increaſed his property in this place.

[b] Reg. Roff. p. 346.

Theſe

Theſe Cavells were poſſeſſed of lands in that part of Modyngham which lies in Cheſilhurſt, as early as the reign of king Edward I. for John Mayo, jun. by his deed, anno 18 Edward I. conveyed ſeveral premiſes in that part of this hamlet to Bernard Cavell, ſenior, of Cheſilhurſt. The laſt of the Cheeſemans, who held this eſtate, was Thomas Cheeſeman, whoſe heir, Alice, carried it in marriage to Robert Stoddard, and his ſon, George Stoddard, and Anne, his wife, in the year 1560, built the preſent manſion-houſe, called Mottingham-place, which, with the lands belonging to it, continued in their deſcendants till Nicholas Stoddard, eſq. dying in 1765, unmarried and inteſtate, there appeared many claimants to the inheritance of it; but after a long litigation in the court of chancery, this ſeat, with the eſtate, was adjudged to an heir by the female line, William Bowreman, eſq. of Newport, in the iſle of Wight, who paſſed away his intereſt in it to Mr. Dyneley, who has almoſt rebuilt this ſeat in a very handſome ſtile, and now reſides in it. In the old houſe were the following dates and coats of arms. On the inſide of the turret, 1560; on a chimney, 1561; on an outward gate, 1635. In the glaſs of the windows theſe arms—*Argent, a mullet pierced ſable, on a chief embattled ſable, two mullets pierced argent*—*Party per chevron embattled ſable and argent, three mullets pierced and counterchanged*—And on a chimney-piece this coat, *Argent, three etoils of eight points impaling or, on a feſs azure three garbs of the firſt, between two chevrons gules, charged with three eſcallops of the firſt.*

At no great diſtance from Mottingham-place, to the eaſtward, is a ſmall ſeat, called FAIRY-HILL, which was honoured with the temporary reſidence of Henry earl Bathurſt, when lord high chancellor of Great Britain. He was the ſecond but eldeſt ſurviving ſon of Allen earl Bathurſt, and being bred to the profeſſion of the law, having been firſt made a juſtice

of

of the court of common-pleas, was, in 1771, farther promoted to be lord high chancellor of Great-Britain, and ſworn of the privy council; and on the 22d of that month, created baron Apſley of Apſley, in Suſſex. On the death of his father, in September 1775, he ſucceeded him, as his eldeſt ſurviving ſon and heir, in the titles of Earl, Viſcount, and Baron Bathurſt, and in the family eſtate, of which the chief ſeat is at Cirenceſter, in Glouceſterſhire. Having reſigned the ſeals he retired to his family ſeat at Circenceſter, where he died in 1794, and was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon the right honourable Henry, now earl Bathurſt, who ſucceeded him in the poſſeſſion of this ſeat, which afterwards became the reſidence of Mr. Nelſon of London, with whom it now continues.

A ſtrange accident happened at Mottingham, on Auguſt 4, 1585, in a field, which then belonged to Sir Percival Hart. Early in the morning the ground began to ſink ſo much, that three large elm trees were ſuddenly ſwallowed up in the pit. The tops of them falling downward into the hole, and before ten o'clock they were ſo overwhelmed, that no part of them could be diſcerned, the concave being ſuddenly filled with water. The compaſs of this hole was about eighty yards, and ſo deep, that a ſounding line of fifty fathoms could hardly reach the bottom. At about ten yards diſtance from the above, there was another piece of ground which ſunk in like manner, near the highway, and ſo near a dwelling-houſe as greatly to terrify the inhabitants of it.[a]

The tithes of the hamlet of Mottingham were given, in the reign of king William Rufus, by Anſgotus, the king's chamberlain, then owner of this place, to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rocheſter. This gift was afterwards the occaſion of frequent contentions,

[a] Philipott, p. 136.

as well between the prior and convent of Rocheſter, and the rectors and vicars of Eltham, as between them and the rectors of Cheſilhurſt. But theſe diſputes only ſerved to ſtrengthen the right of the priory to theſe tithes, which were adjudged and confirmed to the monks of St. Andrew from time to time, by the ſeveral biſhops of Rocheſter and archbiſhops of Canterbury.

The prior and convent of St. Andrew, Rocheſter, by their leaſe, anno 5th Edward III. demiſed to Sir Henry de Reddlynton, chaplain, Laurence de Sutton, and Robert de Voyle, all the tithes of ſheaves ariſing within the hamlet of *Modynham*, within the pariſhes of Cheſilhurſt and Eltham, and the like tithes ariſing in Bertrey, in the pariſh of Codham, at the yearly rent of eight marcs ſterling.

The tithes of Mottingham continued in the poſſeſſion of the prior and convent above mentioned till the final diſſolution of the monaſtery, which happened in March, anno 32 king Henry VIII. when they came, with the reſt of its poſſeſſions, into the king's hands, who the next year ſettled theſe tithes, by his letters patent, on his new erected dean and chapter of Rocheſter.

After the death of king Charles I. an ordinance paſſed, in 1649, for the abolition of deans and chapters, and the ſale of their poſſeſſions, for which purpoſe theſe tithes of Mottingham were ſurveyed, and the following return was made of them:—All that portion of tithes, great and ſmall, ariſing out of the hamlet of *Modingham*, in the pariſhes of Cheſilhurſt and Eltham, let by the dean and chapter, anno 15th king Charles I. for twenty years, at the yearly rent of five pounds to Nicholas Buckeridge, but worth, upon improvement, twenty pounds per annum.[a]

[a] Reg. Roff. p. 47, 59, 87, 138, 228, 346, 353, 528. Scob. Coll. ch. xxiv. Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-library, vol. xiv.

On

On the reſtoration of king Charles II. and the re-eſtabliſhment of the church of England, this portion of tithes returned again to the dean and chapter, who now poſſeſs the inheritance of them.

Eltham had the honour of giving the title of Earl to his late royal highneſs Frederick (afterwards Prince of Wales, and father of his preſent majeſty) who was created Earl of Eltham by his grandfather, king George I. on July 21, in the 12th year of his reign. He died March 20, 1751, and was ſucceeded in this earldom by his eldeſt ſon George, born May 24, in 1738, afterwards created Prince of Wales, and who, on his grandfather, king George II.'s death, October 25, 1760, ſucceeded to the imperial crown of theſe realms, being his preſent moſt excellent majeſty king George III.

## *CHARITIES.*

THOMAS PHILPOT by his will, in 1680 (confirmed by a decree of the court of chancery in 1685) founded an alms-houſe, which is ſituated at the eaſt-end of Eltham-ſtreet, on the north ſide, for ſix poor people, that is, four of this pariſh and two of Cheſilhurſt, the land with which it is endowed being veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 31l.

KING HENRY VII. by deed, in 1442, eſtabliſhed by a commiſſion for charitable uſes, in 1674, gave, for the uſe of the poor inhabitants of Eltham, for and towards the payment of their fifteenths, lands veſted in feoffees, in truſt for that purpoſe, of the annual produce of 56l. 9s. N. B. Thirteen acres, part of this eſtate, is let with other charity lands, given by John Paſſey, mentioned below, and computed to be of the rent of 11l.

HENRY KEIGHTLEY by will, in 1620, gave for the repairing of certain highways, and to pay yearly to twelve poor men of this pariſh 12d. out of the land veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 1s.

JOHN PASSEY by will, in 1509, gave out of the profits of certain lands, 26s. 8d. yearly, i. e. 13s. 4d. for the king's tax, called *head ſilver*, and the remainder for *maſſes*, *obits*, *&c.* and ornaments of the church, the reſidue of the yearly rent of the land to be at the diſpoſal of his wife Agnes, which land is veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 60l. 10s. N. B. The whole rent has been applied for time immemorial to the uſe of the poor of Eltham.

THOMASINE SAMPSON, widow, by will in 1624, eſtabliſhed by a commiſſion for charitable uſes, in 1626, and enrolled in

chancery, by which the application is directed, gave lands, out of which ſhould be paid 4l. yearly among the moſt needy poor of this pariſh, and 4l. for putting out the children of poor perſons of this pariſh apprentices, the land veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 14l.

THOMAS ROPER, eſq. and WILLIAM ROPER, his ſon and heir apparent, anno 25 Elizabeth, gave by indenture, in exchange for other lands, which belonged to the inhabitants of this pariſh, other lands therein mentioned, for the uſe of the ſame inhabitants, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 8l.

NICHOLAS HAGLEY, gent. gave in 1671, by deeds of leaſe and releaſe, certain land for the uſe and benefit of the poor of Eltham, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 10l.

ELIZABETH LEGGETT, widow, by will in 1714, gave for teaching poor children of this pariſh to read and write, and caſt accounts, land veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 18l.

Dame SARAH PRITCHARD by will, in 1707, gave for ten ſuch poor widows and maids equally, inhabitants of this pariſh, as the miniſters and churchwardens ſhould direct, in money, part of the intereſt of 800l. in the orphans fund in London, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 2l. 10s.

MARY CLAPHAM, widow, by will, in 1733, gave to be laid out in coals, and diſtributed yearly among twenty poor houſekeepers of Eltham, 100l. in money, reduced Bank annuities, veſted in truſt, and of the annual produce of 3l.

WILLIAM SMITH, eſq. by will, in 1731, gave to be laid out, in purchaſing religious books yearly, for the pariſhioners of Eltham, and in purchaſing coals to be diſtributed among the poor houſekeepers of Eltham, in money 200l. reduced Bank annuities, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 6l.

DOROTHY SMITH, widow of the above William Smith, by will in 1754, gave for the ſame purpoſes, in money, 100l. in the ſame annuities, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 3l.

ABRAHAM COLFE, clerk, by will in 1756, gave two ſtout penny wheaten loaves of good bread, to be diſtributed every Sunday weekly in the year, to two of the godlieſt and pooreſt houſeholders of this pariſh, at church after morning ſervice, in money, among other charities, veſted in the Leatherſellers company, and of the annual produce of 8l. 8s.

RICHARD SLYNN by will, gave for bread, to be diſtributed to the poor inhabitants of this pariſh, on November 5th, yearly, an annuity, iſſuing out of certain houſes and land, veſted in truſt, and of the annual produce of 12s.

WILLIAM HEWITT by will, in 1779, gave to the churchwardens of this pariſh, for keeping up the tombſtone of his late grandfather, Robert Street, and the ſurplus to be laid out in bread among the poor inhabitants of this pariſh 50l. reduced Bank annuities, veſted in truſt, and of the annual produce of 1l. 10s.

THIS

THIS PARISH is entitled for ever to place three poor people in queen Elizabeth's college, in Greenwich, who do not receive any aſſiſtance from the pariſh.

TWO DWELLING HOUSES in this pariſh have been appropriated time immemorial for the habitation of poor pariſhioners, choſen in veſtry, the donor and time unknown.

There were TWO CHARITY SCHOOLS ſet up here more than ſeventy years ago, for twenty boys and ten girls, who are cloathed and taught in them, by the voluntary ſubſcription of about 60l. per annum, and the gift at the beginning of them of 18l. per annum, as mentioned above.

Eltham is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* of Rocheſter and *deanry* of Dartford. The church, which ſtands at the weſt end of the village, is dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt.

William earl of Glouceſter, on his founding the priory within his manor of Keinſham, in Somerſetſhire, about the year 1170, granted, as patron and lord of the ſoil, to the church of St. Mary and St. Peter of *Caneſham*, and the canons regular there, in free and perpetual arms, the church of St. John of Haultham, with its appurtenances. His grandſon, Gilbert de Clare, earl of Glouceſter and Hertford, confirmed this gift, as did John, biſhop of Bath and Wells, in 1314,[a] and king Edward II. in his 11th year, in his general confirmation of the poſſeſſions of the priory to them.

The church of Eltham was appropriated to the abbey of Keinſham by Richard de Wendover, biſhop of Rocheſter, in the year 1242, ſo that the canons, during the life of Robert de Londone, then parſon of it, ſhould receive the ſum of one hundred ſhillings, to be paid by him in the name of the parſonage, with licence for them, after his death or reſignation, to enter into full poſſeſſion of it, ſaving nevertheleſs to the biſhop, in all things, his right of dioceſan, and of inſtituting a perpetual vicar, to be taxed in it, with the aſſent of the above mentioned abbot.

[a] Tan. Mon. p. 469. Reg. Roff. p. 345. Dug. Mon. v. ii. p. 299.

The church was, anno 15 king Edward I. valued at twenty marcs, and the vicarage at one hundred ſhillings. King Edward III. in his 7th year, directed his writ to the biſhop of Rocheſter, to return the names of all aliens beneficed within his dioceſe, and the names of the reſpective benefices, and who of them were reſident on them. To which the biſhop made return, that Sir Peter de Boileau, an alien, held the vicarage of the church of Eltham, and reſided on it. A like writ was iſſued in the 20th year of the ſame reign, when the biſhop made return, that Sir Peter de Boileau, an alien, held the vicarage of the church of Eltham, taxed at one hundred ſhillings, and that he reſided on it.

An exchange was made, anno 43 Edward III. between the king and the prior and convent of Rocheſter, by which the latter granted to the king and his heirs for ever, among other premiſes, all the tithes of every kind, which they, in right of their church or otherwiſe, were entitled to, and had within the king's park of Eltham, for which the king gave them tenements and rents, in the pariſh of St. Bride, in Fleet-ſtreet, late Hugh Stubby's, and certain ſhops, tenements, and rents, in the pariſh of St. John Zachery, London, late Walter de Hendon's, all which were worth twenty marcs and ſixteen pence per annum, and became forfeited, and in the king's hands, by the deviſe of the ſaid Hugh and Walter in mortmain, contrary to the ſtatute, and without the king's licence. On the diſſolution of the abbey of Keinſham, anno 30 Henry VIII. the church of Eltham, and advowſon of the vicarage, came to the crown with the other poſſeſſions of that monaſtery.[a]

King Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign, granted the rectory of Eltham to Sir John Hendley,

[a] Stev. Mon. vol. ii. p. 456. Reg. Roff. p. 126, 127, 344, 553, Willis's Mitred Abbies, vol. ii. p. 198. Rot. Eſch. an. 36 Henry VIII. pt. 22, and 37 Hen. VIII. pt. 3.

to

to hold by fealty only. He died without iſſue male, leaving three daughters and coheirs, one of whom, Helen, brought this rectory to her huſband, Thomas Colepeper, eſq. of Bedgbury, who ſold it to William Roper, eſq. of Wellhall, and he, in the reign of king Edward VI. reſerving the advowſon of the vicarage, conveyed the rectory of Eltham to Oriel college, in Oxford, with a ſtipulation that, on paying one hundred pounds as a fine, and a yearly rent of fourteen pounds, the college ſhould grant a leaſe of it, either for three lives or thirty-one years, to him and his heirs of the family of Roper.

Anthony Roper was the laſt life in the leaſe, and his ſon Edward being left an infant, his truſtees neglected to renew the term, on which the college granted the rectory in leaſe to Richard Comport, gent. of Eltham, who had a grant from Sir Edward Walker, garter, in 1663, of the following arms, viz. *Argent, on a chevron gules three quarterfoils of the firſt between three torteauxes.*[b] His only daughter and heir married Sir Thomas Fitch, and brought her huſband this rectory; and on his death, in 1688, it deſcended to his ſon, Sir Comport Fitch, who died poſſeſſed of it in 1720; his daughter and heir, Alice, carried it in marriage to Sir John Barker, bart. of Suffolk, ſince which it has paſſed in the ſame manner as his eſtate at South-end, in this pariſh, by the deviſe of his ſon, Sir John Fitch Barker, bart. to Robert Naſſau, eſq. who is the preſent leſſee of it.

The advowſon of the vicarage ſtill continued, as has been mentioned before, in the patronage of the Ropers, in which family it deſcended to Edward Roper, eſq. of Wellhall, the laſt heir male of this branch, who died in 1722, ſince which it paſſed in like manner as Wellhall, and the reſt of his eſtates in this pariſh, as has been more fully mentioned before,

[b] See the grant in the Harleian MSS. No. 1172-44-97.

to Sir Gregory Page, bart. who at his death, without iſſue, in 1775, bequeathed it by his will to his great-nephew, Sir Gregory Turner Page, bart. of Oxfordſhire, the preſent owner of it.

The vicarage is a diſcharged living, in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of 32l. 8s. the yearly tenths being 6s. 2d.[a]

By virtue of the *commiſſion of enquiry* into the value of church livings, in 1650, out of chancery, it was returned, that Eltham was a vicarage, worth 27l. 5s. per annum, one maſter Overton enjoying it, under the ſequeſtrators, Mr. Chatterton and others.[b]

It was, anno 1734, augmented by the governors of queen Anne's bounty, at which time Sir Gregory Page, bart. contributed one hundred pounds for the like purpoſe.

In the year 1767 this church was modernized and beautified, at no ſmall expence, when being found too ſmall to contain the pariſhioners, it was much enlarged, by which the antient chancel of the Tatterſalls was deſtroyed.

*In this church*, among others, on the ſouth ſide of the altar, is a monument for Richard Peter, clerk, vicar of this church, ob. Jan. 18, 1748, æt. 75. A monument for Anne, wife of Dr. Richard Owen, ob. 1652, and ſeveral of their children; Dr. Owen was driven hence by the rebels, but buried here. On a hatchment, anno 1664, *Two ſhields lozengy*, firſt, Philipott, *quartered with ſeven other coats*, *impaling* Glover, *and three other coats*; and an inſcription, that near it lies buried Suſan, late wife of John Philipott, eſq. Somerſet herald, deſigned Norroy, and daughter and ſole heir of William Glover, eſq. and Elizabeth his wife, daughter and coheir of Henry Harlackenden,

[a] Bacon. Lib. Regis.

[b] Parl. Surveys, Lambeth-libr. vol. xix. Ect. Theſ. p. xxiii. Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. i. Faſti, p. 35. Harleian MSS. No. 1106.

eſq.

eſq. as likewiſe Suſan, her eldeſt daughter. Monuments for ſeveral of the Cookes. *In the chancel*, a memorial for Margery, late wife of Ed. Iſham, eſq. of Walmer, daughter and coheir of John Fletcher, eſq. of Suſſex. A memorial round the verge of a flat ſtone for John, ſon of Edw. Colleton, gent. of Milverton, Somerſetſhire, ob. 1635, æt. 87. *In the middle iſle*, a memorial for Clement Hobſon, vicar of this church, ob. Oct. 31, 1725, æt. 91; alſo his mother, wife, and three children, and four grand children, by his daughter Jane, wife of Wm. Boſville, eſq. of Bradbourn. Memorials for ſeveral of the Smiths and Bowles. The following inſcriptions were on braſs plates, on the pavement, now entirely loſt—for dame Margerie, late wife of John Roper, eſq. daughter and one of the heirs of John Tatterſall, eſq. ob. 1518—for John, ſon and heir of Margaret Morton, of Aſhby de la Zouch, in Leiceſterſhire, late wife of Tho. Squier, ob.—for Tho. Pierle, ob. 1369, and for John Paſley, yeoman, porter to king Henry VIII. and Agnes, his wife, ob. 1509.[c] In the family vault of the Burtons, in this church, are interred the remains of the worthy and excellent Dr. George Horne, late biſhop of Norwich, who died much lamented and admired by all, Jan. 17, 1792, æt. 62, of whom more will be mentioned in the account of the deans of Canterbury, in the future courſe of this hiſtory. It may not be deemed improper to inſert here, that the before mentioned John Philipott, eſq. born at Folkeſtone, was a great loyaliſt, and followed the king to Oxford, but being ſeized by the rebels, was brought priſoner to London, where he was ſoon releaſed, and lived afterwards in theſe parts, in much obſcurity. He died, and was buried within the precincts of St. Paul's-wharf, in 1645, having written ſeveral books, and among others, *Villare*

[c] See the monuments and inſcriptions in this church at large in Reg. Roff. p. 949.

*Cantianum*,

*Cantianum*, or *Kent illuſtrated and ſurveyed*; which his ſon, Thomas Philipott, had the honeſty to rob his father of the merit of, publiſhing it under his own name, in folio, at London, 1659.

King Richard III. granted a ſalary of ten marcs per annum to Sir Henry Brokas, chaplain, within the manor of Eltham.

King Henry VIII. by his letters patent, in his 19th year, granted to Robert Burſte, chaplain, the perpetual chantry within his manor of Eltham, and the manſion there, called the *chantry prieſt's houſe*, ſituated in the farther part of his manor, which chantry and manſion Richard Store, the laſt chaplain, poſſeſſed, and the king appointed him perpetual chaplain there for his life, to ſay maſs, &c. daily for his own welfare, that of his conſort, queen Catharine, and all other their progenitors, and to have the annual ſalary of ten marcs ſterling.

King Edward VI. in his 5th year, granted to Sir John Gates the reverſion of the above premiſes and ſalary.

An *obit* was founded in the church of Eltham, by the will of Elizabeth Hogeſon, and another by the will of John Collin. The poſſeſſions were called Dennys-mead, Colly-acre, and Crowches-croft, and were of the clear yearly value of 16s. 8d. as appeared upon the ſurvey, taken in conſequence of the acts paſſed in the 1ſt year of king Edward VI. and in the 37th of king Henry VIII. for the ſurrendry of chantries, lights, obits, &c.

## *CHURCH OF ELTHAM.*

| PATRONS, *Or by whom preſented.* | RECTORS. |
|---|---|
| *William Earl of Glouceſter* ..... | *Adam de Bromleigh.*[a] |
| | *Picard*, in the reign of Hen. II.[b] |
| | *Robert Londone*, the laſt rector in 1242, when this church was appropriated to Keinſham-abbey.[c] |

a Reg. Roff. p. 353. b Ibid. p. 47. c Ibid. p. 344.

PATRONS,

*Church of Eltham. Continued.*

| PATRONS, &c. | VICARS. |
|---|---|
| *Prior and Convent of Keinſham* .... | *Robert.*[d] |
| | *Sir Peter de Boyleau*, in 1342.[e] |
| | *Henry Underwood*, 1549. |
| *William Roper, eſq. and his deſcendants*..... | *Thomas Thirwind*, buried Jan. 26, 1584. |
| | *Richard Tyler*, buried May 29, 1585. |
| | *James Twiſt*, buried Feb. 18, 1597. |
| | *John Foord*, A.M. induct. 1597, obt. Mar. 19, 1627. |
| *The Univerſity of Oxford*..... | *Robert Forward*, B. D. reſigned Nov. 10, 1635.[f] |
| | *Edward Witherſton* A. M. 1635, reſig. Feb. 16, 1636.[g] |
| | *Richard Owen*, B. D. inducted February 2, 1636, reſigned 1658.[h] |
| *Edward Roper, eſq*..... | *Clement Hobſon*, admitted November 13, 1658, obt. October 31, 1725.[i] |
| *Charles Henſhaw, eſq*..... | *Richard Peter*, A. M. inſtituted April 4, 1726, obt. Jan. 18, 1748.[k] |
| *Sir Gregory Page, bart*..... | *Peter Pinnell*, D. D. 1749, obt. Aug. 16, 1783.[l] |
| | *John Kenward Shaw*, A.M. 1783. Preſent vicar. |

d Reg. Roff. p. 348.

e Ibid. p. 126.

f Fellow of Oriel college. He reſigned this vicarage, being preſented to preferment in Ireland, he was, in 1640, dean of Dromore, chanter of St. Patrick's, Dublin, &c.

g Fellow of Oriel college. He reſigned it for the vicarage of Bysfrome, in Hereſordſhire, and was afterwards rector of Little Marcley, in the ſame county.

h Of Oriel college. He was inducted into the church of St. Swithen, London, in 1639, and afterwards expelled this church in the time of the uſurpation. About 1656, he was preferred to North Cray, where he died in 1683, and was buried in the chancel of this church. Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. ii. p. 729. Walk. Suff. of Clergy. pt. ii. p. 173. Newcourt's Rep. vol. i.

i He died in his 91ſt year, and lies buried in the middle iſle of this church.

k He died, æt. 75, and was buried in the chancel of this church. His father, John Peter, gent. lies buried at Lewiſham.

l And rector of Bermondſey, in Southwark, by diſpenſation, which he reſigned on being preſented to the vicarage of Shorne. In 1775 he was made a prebendary of Rocheſter, and died in 1783.

## LEE

IS the next pariſh weſtward from Eltham. It was antiently written *Legheart*, and in old Latin, *Laga*, i. e. a place which lies ſheltered.

The pariſh of Lee is but ſmall, it lies low and flat, excepting towards the north, where the hill riſes towards Blackheath; the lane, called Burnt-aſh-lane, bounds it weſtward, and ſeparates the two manors of Lee and Eltham. The village ſtands nearly in the middle of it, on the high road towards Eltham, and thence to Maidſtone. It is very healthy and pleaſant, and is well-built, the houſes being all inhabited by genteel families of fortune. On the north ſide is the antient ſeat of Lee-place; at the weſt end a houſe, which has been many years the reſidence of the family of Papillon, oppoſite to which are the alms-houſes, built by the Boone family. Northward of the village the hill riſes, nearly on the ſummit of which is lady Dacre's ſeat, moſt pleaſantly ſituated, the church, the parſonage cloſe to it, and other houſes.

There is *a little bourn*, or *rivulet*, which takes its riſe in this pariſh, and ſometimes, on ſudden rains, ſwells ſo much, as to riſe near ten feet in height, where it croſſes the high road, which made it ſo dangerous, or rather impaſſable, at thoſe times for paſſengers, that within theſe few years there had been a bridge built over it, and a high cauſeway raiſed for a conſiderable length at each end of it, at the public expence. This brook, running from hence, paſſes along by the foot of the wall of the old ſeat of the Anneſley's, long ſince quite ruined; about the ſouth ſide of which it ſeems to have made a kind of moat, and afterwards diſcharges its waters into the river Ravenſborne in the adjoining pariſh of Lewiſham. The meadow lands in the valley lying

lying on each ſide of this ſtream are very rich, and let at high rents. Theſe Anneſleys above-mentioned, bore for their arms, *Paly of ſix pieces argent, and azures on a bend gules, a creſcent*, for difference.

In the time of William the Conqueror, Lee was part of the poſſeſſions of Odo, biſhop of Baieux and earl of Kent, of whom it was held by Walter de Doway.

It is thus deſcribed in Domeſday, under the general title of the biſhop's lands:

*Walter de Dowai holds Lee of the biſhop (of Baieux). It was taxed at half a ſuling. The arable land is* 4 *carucates. In demeſne there are* 2 *carucates, and* 11 *villeins, with* 2 *cottagers having* 2 *carucates. There are* 2 *ſervants and* 5 *acres of meadow. There is wood for the pannage of* 10 *hogs. In the time of K. Edward the Confeſſor, and when the biſhop received it, it was worth* 3 *pounds, now* 100 *ſhillings. Alunin held it of the king.*

As early as in the reign of king Edward I. this place was the reſidence of an antient family, called Bankwell, written, in the biſhop of Rocheſter's Regiſter, Bakwell, Bacwell, and Banquelle; which, probably, acquired that ſurname, from a place in this pariſh, formerly written Bankwells, but now, called Bankers.

In the 31ſt year of that reign, John de Banquel had a grant, to him, Cicele his wife, of *free warren* in all their lands in Lee, Lewiſham, Bromley, and in Brokiſham.[a]

In the firſt year of king Edward II. John de Banquel was appointed one of the barons of the king's exchequer;[b] and in the return of John de Shelving, ſheriff, in the 16th and 17th year of that reign, of all the knights and *men at arms* within it, William de Banquel is mentioned in the ſecond degree. He died in the 20th year of king Edward III. and left Thomas Ban-

[a] Philipott, p. 212. Pat. anno 31 king Edw. I. No. 47.
[b] Pat. ejus an. pars 1 ma.

quel

quel his heir; who died in the 35th year of that reign, poſſeſſed of Lee, and a large quantity of lands beſides, in Modingham, Sherfholt, ſince corruptly called Shrawfield, Littlecroft, Bankers, and Wickham by Bromley. He left three ſons, John, William, and Robert, who became heirs in *gavelkind* to all his inheritance; and upon the diviſion of it, Lee, Bankers, and Sherfholt, or Shrawfield, fell to the ſhare of John Bankwell, the eldeſt: but this family ending in a female heir, ſhe carried theſe eſtates in marriage to John Arrapon; whence they were, in the next reign, of king Richard II. ſold to Sir Thomas Stury, who continued in poſſeſſion of them till the reign of king Henry VI. when they became the property of Richard Widville, or Woodville, who, in the 26th year of king Henry VI. was created Baron Rivers, and made knight of the Garter, and afterwards, in 1465, Earl Rivers and Conſtable of England, by king Edward IV. who had married his daughter Elizabeth, widow of Sir John Grey.[a] His great favour with the king brought on him the hatred of the Lancaſtrians, who ſeized him, with his ſon John, and carried them to Northampton, where they were both beheaded, in the 9th year of king Edward IV. By Jaquet de Luxemburgh his wife, widow of John, duke of Bedford, he had ſeveral ſons and daughters. Of the ſons, Anthony, the eldeſt, ſucceeded his father in his honours, and likewiſe in theſe manors and eſtates. He had married, in his father's life-time, Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas lord Scales, and had ſummons to parliament in the 1ſt year of king Edward IV. as baron Scales. He was beheaded at Pontefract-caſtle in 1483, under the pretence of treaſon, by order of Richard duke of Glouceſter, afterwards king Richard III. He died without legitimate iſſue; upon which Richard Woodville, his brother, ſucceeded him in titles and eſtates. But dying unmarried, anno 7 king Hen-

[a] Philipott, p. 212. Dugd. Baron. vol. ii. p. 231 and to 233.

ry VII.

ry VII. by his will he appointed Thomas Grey, marquis Dorſet, his nephew, his heir, as was found by inquiſition, taken after his death, and that he died poſſeſſed of the manor of Lee, with five hundred and ſeventy acres of arable, meadow, wood, and paſture, in Lee and Lewiſham, held of the king by fealty, and the ſervice of performing ſuit at the court of the ſheriff, held at Sutton-at-Hone, in lieu of all ſervices; and of the manor of Lee-Shroffold, with one hundred and ſix acres of arable and meadow in Shroffold, and of the manor of Bankers; both which were held of the prior of St. John of Bethlehem of Sheene, in Surry.

Sir Thomas Grey, marquis Dorſet, was eldeſt ſon of Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter of Richard Widville, or Woodville, earl Rivers, (afterwards married to king Edward IV.) and ſiſter of the laſt-mentioned earl, by Sir John Grey. He was, anno 11 king Edward IV. created Earl of Huntingdon; and in the 15th year of that reign, Marquis Dorſet, only *per cincturam gladii, et capæ honoris et dignitatis impoſitionem*, the coronet being omitted.

After the death of king Edward IV. he was, in reſpect of his near relationſhip to the young king Edward, attainted of high treaſon, by the duke of Glouceſter; but he found means to ſteal away privately, and eſcaped into Brittany, with many other perſons of note, to the aid of Henry earl of Richmond; where he ſtaid till the overthrow of king Richard III. at Boſworth, when he returned, and king Henry VII. fully reſtored him, and made him one of his privy-council. He married Cecilie, daughter and heir of William lord Bonville, (afterwards married to Henry earl of Wiltſhire,) by whom he had ſeveral ſons and daughters, and died anno 17 king Henry VII. having given by his will to Thomas, his eldeſt ſon, among other manors, thoſe of the Lee-Shroffold, and the Lee-Bancors and Leviſham.[b]

[b] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 719. and ſeq.

He

He kept them but a few years; for he granted to king Henry VIII. in his third year, the manors of Lee, Bankerds, and Shrofolde, with the advowſons of the church of Lee, and all other lands and tenements, of his inheritance in the towns of Lee, Bankerds, and Shrofolde, with all liberties, &c. in exchange for other manors and lands in Leiceſterſhire.[a]

In the reign of queen Elizabeth theſe manors were in the tenure of Thomas Sackville lord Buckhurſt, afterwards earl of Dorſet, and lord high treaſurer; whoſe grandſon, Richard earl of Dorſet, exchanged his intereſt in them with king James I. and his ſucceſſor, king Charles I. granted the royalty and fee-ſimple of them, (the advowſon of the rectory being excepted) at the yearly rent of 87l. 10s. 2d.[b] to Ralph Freeman of Aſpeden, in Hertfordſhire, who was afterwards knighted, and in 1633 lord-mayor of London. He married Joan, fourth daughter of John Crowch of London, clothworker, and had by her an only daughter and heir, Joan, with whom he gave theſe manors in marriage to Sir George Sondes of Lee's-court, in Sheldwich, knight of the Bath,[c] afterwards created Earl of Faverſham. By her he had three ſons, all of whom died without iſſue; he afterwards married Mary, daughter of ſir William Villiers of Brokeſby, in Leiceſterſhire, bart. by whom he left two daughters and coheirs; Mary, married to Lewis Duras, marquis of Blanquefort, who ſucceeded to the title of earl of Faverſham; and Catherine, to Lewis Watſon, earl of Rockingham, who, in her right, inherited theſe manors on the death of the earl of Faverſham, without iſſue.

On the death of Lewis, earl of Rockingham, in 1724 his grandſon (ſon of Edward, viſcount Sondes, by Katherine his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of Thomas earl of Thanet, who died in his father's

[a] Augtn. Off. Inrolments. [b] See Philipott, p. 212.
[c] Aug. Off. Fee-farm Rolls, T. Interregni, Roll 99. No. 425.

life-

life-time) ſucceeded him in titles and eſtates; but dying without iſſue in 1745, he was ſucceeded by his next brother, Thomas, who dying without iſſue likewiſe, deviſed theſe, among his other eſtates, by will, to the Hon. Lewis Monſon, ſecond ſon of John Monſon lord Monſon, by Margaret, third and youngeſt daughter of the firſt Lewis earl of Rockingham, with an injunction for him to take and uſe the ſurname and arms of Watſon.

Lewis Monſon Watſon above-mentioned was, in the year 1760, being the laſt of king George II. advanced to the title of Baron Sondes of Lees-court, in the pariſh of Sheldwich in this county, and he in 1788 ſettled this eſtate on his eldeſt ſon the Hon. Lewis Thomas Watſon on his marriage, who, in 1795, on the death of his father, ſucceeded to the title of lord Sondes; and is the preſent proprietor of this manor of Lee, and its two appendages of Bankers and Shrawfield.

LEE-PLACE is an antient well-built ſeat, which formerly belonged to, and was the reſidence of the family of Boone, in which it continued till Thomas Boone, eſq. dying in 1749, it came by his will to his natural daughter, married to Charles Cornforth, eſq. who died poſſeſſed of it in 1777, when it went, by the limitations in Mr. Boone's will, to his nephews, ſons of his brother, one of whom, Charles Boone, eſq. now poſſeſſes it, but Benjamin Harriſon, eſq. treaſurer of Guy's hoſpital at preſent reſides in it.

About a quarter of a mile towards the north-weſt, from the village of Lee, on the aſcent of the hill, ſtands an elegant modern-built ſeat, late belonging to Sir Thomas Fludyer, who died poſſeſſed of it in 1769, bearing for his arms, *Sable, a croſs flory, between four eſcallops argent, each charged with a croſs flory of the field*; which arms were granted in 1739. He left, by Mary his wife, daughter of Sir George Champion, alderman of London, a daughter and heir, Mary, who in 1773 married Trevor Charles Roper, eſq. and brought him the poſſeſſion of this ſeat. He was the

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eldeſt ſon of the Hon. George Roper, the ſon of Henry lord Teynham, by his ſecond wife Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Lennard earl of Suſſex, and baroneſs Dacre, whoſe ſecond huſband he was. Her firſt huſband having been Thomas Lennard Barret, eſq. by whom ſhe had a ſon, the late Thomas Lennard Barret, lord Dacre, on whoſe death, *ſ. p.* in 1786, Trevor Charles Roper, eſq. above-mentioned, ſucceeded to that title, and became lord Dacre.[a] He died at this ſeat in July 1794, *ſ. p.* and was buried in Lee church, leaving the poſſeſſion of it to his widow Mary, lady Dacre, who now reſides in it.

## *CHARITIES.*

At the weſt end of the village of Lee is a row of alms-houſes, with a chapel adjoining to them, built and endowed by CHRISTOPHER BOONE, of London, merchant, and MARY his wife; who, by their deed, in 1683, enfeoffed the maſter and wardens of the Merchant-taylors in London, in a parcel of land in this pariſh; on which were built a chapel and four houſes, for a ſchool-miſtreſs, to teach poor children to read and work, and ſix poor antient alms-people; and in a piece of ground for a garden plat. And they alſo enfeoffed them in twenty-three acres of land, lying near Blackheath, let for 15l. per annum; and in an annual rent of 42l. per annum, out of the fee-farm rent of the city of Hereford, in truſt, that they ſhould pay yearly the ſalaries, &c. to the ſeveral members of this charity. And likewiſe furniſh firing, gowns, and certain neceſſaries for the uſe of the poor people and children. The reſidue of the income, to be a ſtock to defray the charge of repairs, and augment the allowances of the members of it. The maſter and wardens to viſit them every year, on the firſt Thurſday in July.

The rector of Lee to be chaplain; or, if he refuſed, or removed, then the vicar of Lewiſham; or, if he refuſed, or miſbehaved, any other miniſter of the church of England.

The ſchool-miſtreſs to teach twelve poor children, to be preſented by the rector and churchwardens of Lee. The alms people to be men or women, two in a houſe, of the pooreſt people of this pariſh, who had lived orderly, and ſupported themſelves by their honeſt labour in their younger days, or if there were not enough ſuch found, then of the pariſh of Lewiſham; and if not there, then of Greenwich.

[a] See more of his deſcent under Teynham.

The

The Rev. ABRAHAM COLFE, in 1656, gave by will, to be diſtributed in bread at the church every Sunday in the year, in money veſted in the Leatherſeller's-company, of the annual produce of 8s. 4d. and a free ſcholarſhip for one boy, in the free-ſchool of Lewiſham, veſted in the ſame company.

WILLIAM HATCLIFFE gave by will, for the relief of indigent perſons, by the diſtribution of 10s. per annum each, a ſhare of certain land, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 22l. 11s. 6d.

THIS PARISH is entitled for ever to place one poor perſon in Queen Elizabeth's college, in Greenwich, founded by the will of William Lambarde, eſq. and veſted in the Draper's company, of the annual produce of 8l. 13s. 4d.

Lee is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* of Rocheſter and *deanry* of Dartford. The church is dedicated to St. Margaret; it ſeems an antient ſtructure, the church-yard is crowded with tombs and monuments, many of them of excellent ſculpture; among which is a plain table tomb for Dr. Edward Halley, the famous aſtronomer, who lies buried underneath it.

Among other monuments and memorials in this church, *in the iſle*, is a monument in braſs, with the effigies of a woman, for Elizabeth Conkyll, obt. 1513. At the eaſt end of it a monument for Abraham Sherman, A. M. miniſter of God's word in this pariſh, who rebuilt the parſonage houſe in 1636, obt. Oct. 5, 1654. On the north ſide of the altar a ſumptuous monument, with the figures of a man in armour, and his wife lying at full length, and an inſcription, for Bryan Anſlye, eſq. late of Lee, and Awdry his wife, only daughter of Robert Tirrell, of Eſſex, eſq. by whom he had one ſon and three daughters, Brian, who died *ſ. p.* Grace, married to Sir John Wilgorſe; Chriſtian to lord Sandes, and Cordell to Sir William Hervey. The ſaid Brian the father died in 1604, being one of the gentlemen penſioners to queen Elizabeth; the ſaid Awdry died in 1591. Erected by Cordell their daughter. On the ſouth ſide of the altar a monument, with effigies in braſs of a man in armour, kneeling at a deſk with a book open

before him, and an inſcription in black letter for Nicholas Anſley, ſerjeant of the cellar to queen Elizabeth, obt. 1593, æt. 58; and an inſcription was here formerly for George Hatcliffe, eſq. the king's treaſurer in Ireland, and one of the clerks of the king's houſehold, obt. 1514.[a]

The church was antiently eſteemed as an appendage to the manor, and ſeems to have continued ſo till king Charles I. granted the fee of the manor to Ralph Freeman, reſerving the right of the patronage of the church to the crown, where it continues at this time.

The church of Lee was valued, in the 15th year of king Edward I. at ten marcs. It is valued in the king's books at 3l. 11s. 8d. and the yearly tenths at 7s. 2d.

The parſonage-houſe was rebuilt by Abraham Sherman, rector of this pariſh in the year 1636.

By virtue of the *commiſſion of enquiry* into the value of church livings, in 1650, out of Chancery, it was returned, that Lee was a parſonage, with a houſe, and fifteen acres of glebe land; all worth ſeventy pounds per annum, one maſter Abraham Sherman enjoying it.

## *CHURCH OF LEE.*

| PATRONS, *Or by whom preſented.* | RECTORS. |
|---|---|
| *Family of Bakewell* ..... | *Jordanus.*<br>*Richard de Toſte*, inſt. March 22, 1320.[b]<br>*William de Ardenne*, adm. Sept. 13, 1330, obt. 1332.[c]<br>*John Moyne*, adm. Jan. 8, 1332, reſigned 1335.[d]<br>*John de Lenne*, 1335, another induction March 9, 1338.[e] |

a See a full account of the monuments and inſcriptions in this church in Reg. Roff. p. 850.

b c d Regiſt. Hamo de Hathe.

e And vicar of Timington, non dior. which he exchanged for this rectory.

PATRONS.

| PATRONS, &c. | RECTORS. |
|---|---|
| *Family of Bakewell* ..... | *William Drayton*, admitted Oct. 8, 1349.[f] |
| | *John Kinge*, adm. April 28, 1353, reſigned 1362.[g] |
| | *John de Somerbye*, adm. October 26, 1362.[h] |
| | *Richard Holewaye*, reſig. 1390.[i] |
| *Sir Richard Story* ..... | *John Clerk*, adm. May 17, 1390, reſigned eod. ann.[k] |
| | *William Glaſtynbery*, Dec. 5, 1390, reſigned 1391.[l] |
| | *Hugo ap David*, adm. May 24, 1391, reſigned 1402.[m] |
| *Sir Robert Story* ..... | *John de Bardenage*, adm. July 1402, reſigned eod. ann.[n] |
| | *William Howet*, adm. Sept. 5, 1402, reſigned 1403.[o] |
| | *Thomas Talbott*, April 7, 1403, reſigned 1405.[p] |
| | *John Gyffard*, adm. Jan. 17, 1405, obt. 1406.[q] |
| | *William Cowpere*, adm. April 26, 1406.[r] |
| | *Robert Pejonn*, obt. 1425.[s] |
| | *John Hoo*, adm. Nov. 23, 1425.[t] |
| *Richard Wydville* ..... | *Richard Moore*, adm. October 3, 1452, reſigned 1459.[u] |
| *Lord de Rivers* ..... | *Thomas Clote*, March 20, 1459.[v] |
| *Anthony Wydville* ..... | *John Mellory*, adm. Nov. 10, 1462, reſigned 1463.[w] |
| *Lord de Seales* ..... | *Robert Ayward*, adm. Sept. 2 1463.[x] |
| | *John Walronde*, July 15, 1495, reſigned 1497.[y] |

f Regiſt. Hamo de Hathe.
g Regiſt. Joh. de Shepie.
h And vicar of Brokeſborne, London dioceſe, which he exchanged for this rectory. Reg. Wittleſey.
i Regiſt. W. Botleſham.
k Ibid. and vicar of Pevenſey, Ceciſt. dioceſe, which he exchanged for this rectory.
l He exchanged the free chapel in the church of Leiceſter for this rectory. Ibid Regiſt.
m Rector of Tynterne, Lincoln dioc. which he exchanged for this rectory. Ibid. Regiſt.
n Regiſt. W. Botleſham.
o Ibid.
p Rector of Bentley, Norwich dioc. which he exchanged for this rectory. Ibid. Regiſt.
q Rector of Eaſt Iccleſworth, Winton dioceſe. Ibid. Regiſt.
r Reg. Botleſham.
s Regiſter J. Langdon.
t Ibid.
u Regiſter J. Low.
v Ibid.
w Ibid.
x Ibid.
y Act Cur. Conſiſt.

PATRON. *Thomas, Marquis Dorſet.*

*Robert Houghtone*, inſtit. June 2, 1497, obt. 1498.[a]
*Roger Abraham*, inſtit. Sept. 29, 1498, ſecond induct. Oct. 9, 1500, obt. 1501.[b]
*William Lambe*, inſt. Nov. 10, 1501, obt. 1503.[c]
*Thomas Robyns*, inſt. June 10, 1503, ſecond induct. Sept. 9, 1504, reſigned 1509.[d]
*Simon Templeman*, inſt. Oct. 31, 1509, obt. 1526.[e]

PATRON. *The Crown.*

*Robert Hale*, alias *Hales*, inſtit. Sept. 14, 1526, reſig. 1569.[f]
*Wm. Brooke*, inſt. Oct. 6, 1569,
*Hugo Probart*, deprived 1579.
*John Stoner*, inſt. June 12, 1579.[g] obt. June 1599.[h]
*William Tyler*, A. M. inſt. July 16, 1599, obt. March 13, 1632.[i]
*Abraham Sherman*, inſt. Oct. 2, 1632, obt. Oct. 5, 1654.[k]
..... *Hiccocks*, ejected 1662.[l]
*George Shawe*, B. D. inſt. Oct. 24, 1662.[m]
*John Jackſon*, A. M. inſt. Dec. 18, 1672, obt. 1701.[n]
*John Ovington*, I. T. P. inſt. Dec. 18, 1701, obt. June 1731.[o]
*Richard Atkins*, A. M. inſtit. Aug. 28, 1731, obt. April 24, 1745.[p]
*John Lawry*, A. M. inſt. May 3, 1745, obt, Aug. 20, 1773.[q]
*Henry Reginald Courteney*, L.L.D. inſtituted Septem. 1773, lord biſhop of Briſtol. The preſent rector.[r]

a Regiſter Spiritual Roff.
b Ibid. and Act Cur. Conſiſt.
c Ibid.
d Act vis Archid.
e Ibid.
f Late canon of Leſnes, ibid.
g Regiſter Epi.
h Archiv. Archid.
i Regiſter Epi. Regiſter Paroch.
k He lies buried in this church, Reg. Paroch.
l He was ejected by the Bartholem. Act. See Calamay's Life of Baxter, p. 286.
m Archiv. Archid. Regiſter Epi.
n And Libr. Subſcript.
o Regiſter Sprat. He was buried in this church. Regiſter Paroch.
p Archiv. Archid. He was buried in the chancel.
q And prebendary of Rocheſter in 1745. He had a diſpenſation for holding the vicarage of Boughton Monchelſea with this rectory, and afterwards reſigned the former for Aylesford vicarage.
r Alſo prebendary of Rocheſter in June 1774. He was inducted into the rectory of St. George's, Hanover-ſquare, which he held with this rectory by diſpenſation, on which he reſigned that prebend, and in 1783 he was again inducted as a prebend in that church, ſince which he has been conſecrated biſhop of Briſtol, and holds this rectory *in commendam*.

☞ This liſt of rectors was kindly communicated by the Rev. Mr. Samuel Denne, of Wilmington.

LEWISHAM.

## LEWISHAM

IS the laſt pariſh undeſcribed in this hundred, being the next weſtward from Lee. It adjoins weſtward to Surry, and ſouthward to the hundred of Bromley and Beckenham.

This place, called in antient deeds, *Leveſham*, derives its name from its ſituation, *Leves*, or *Leſwes*, in Saxon ſignifying paſtures, and *ham*, a town or village.[a]

This pariſh lies low and flat. The river Ravenſborne directs its courſe through it northward, at a ſmall diſtance weſtward of the village or ſtreet of Lewiſham, which ſtands on the roads to Beckenham and Bromley, and extends up to the Eltham road, beyond which it extends, northward, up the hill to Blackheath, which is a ſmall part of it within its bounds, on which there is a large hamlet of houſes, which reaches as far as Deptford-hill on the London-road, many of theſe are handſome, and ſome inhabited by the nobility, particularly one by the earl of Dartmouth, lord of this manor.

Lewiſham-ſtreet is more than a mile in length, which, as well as the hamlets and environs near it, are in great meaſure inhabited by opulent merchants and Londoners, the vicinity to the metropolis making this place a moſt agreeable and convenient receſs.

In the ſtreet, oppoſite the rookery, there ſtood a great houſe, once the habitation of Sir William Wild, knt. and bart. recorder of London, and afterwards one of the juſtices of the common-pleas and king's-bench, in the reign of king Charles II. It was held under a term from the corporation of London, which expiring ſome years ago, it was then pulled down. Farther on, at the corner of the lane going up to Brock-

[a] Coke's Inſt. lib. i. cap. i. fol. 4.

ley, by the church and vicarage houſe, is a handſome manſion, which was for ſome generations owned by the family of Lethieullier, the firſt of whom was Sir John le Thieullier, a Hamburgh merchant, who had raiſed himſelf by his induſtry and trade, in whoſe deſcendants it continued till his great grandſon, John Greene Lethieullier, eſq. alienated it in 1776, to Mr. Sclater of Roterhithe, who is now entitled to it.

At the ſouth end of the ſtreet is the hamlet of Ruſhy-green, and farther on, at near a mile's diſtance, on the road to Beckenham, that of Southend, noted for thoſe engines on the river, by which the late Mr. Ephraim How made thoſe knife-blades ſo famous throughout England; on the oppoſite or weſtern ſide of the river, on higher ground, is the hamlet of Brockley; and nearer the river a great houſe, uſually called the Place-houſe, which once belonged to George Plantagenet duke of Clarence, king Edward IV.'s brother, and came to him by marriage with Iſabel, daughter and coheir of Richard Neville, the great earl of Warwick, in memory of which the duke's arms, impaled with her's, were put up in the windows of this houſe, where they remained till very lately, by which it ſhould ſeem, that he at ſome time reſided here. Near this houſe is the hamlet of Pery-ſtreet, and at ſome diſtance, farther ſouthward, the much more conſiderable one of Sydenham is ſituated at the ſouth-weſt corner of it, adjoining to Surry. It was formerly written *Cypenham*, and among the benefactors to the priory of Rocheſter, John Beſevile is recorded to have given the land of *Sipeham*, in this pariſh, to that priory;[a] and about one hundred years ago had only a few farm-houſes and cottages in it, built round the common. The increaſe of its inhabitants, and proſperity ſince, has been owing to the diſcovery of ſome ſprings of *medicinal purging water* in

[a] Reg. Roff. p. 116.

it,

it, which, from their nearneſs to Dulwich, bear the name of Dulwich-wells, though there are ſome of the ſame kind in that pariſh, but they are of an inferior quality, and not ſo plentiful in quantity. Theſe ſprings in this hamlet are at the foot of a hill, about twelve in number. The hill and ground adjoining is a ſtiff clay, with ſome wood upon it. Theſe are next to thoſe of Epſom, being diſcovered about the year 1640. The hole dug is about nine feet deep, and the water about half a yard deep, when emptied every day. The bottom is a loam, as is the hill, and where the water iſſues in, is found the *lapis lutoſo-vitriolicus*, which glitters with vitriolic ſparkles, and is divided into parcels by the *trichitis*. This water purges very quick; it is bitter like the Epſom waters, it curdles with ſoap or milk, equal to them, and much more than thoſe at Richmond.

Dr. Allen publiſhed his account of theſe wells in 1699, though there had been before, in 1681, a treatiſe on them, publiſhed at London, in 12mo. by Dr. John Peter, phyſician, under the name of Lewiſham, vulgarly called Dulwich-wells, in Kent, and in No. 461 of the Philoſophical Tranſactions, is an account of a new purging ſpring at the Green Man, at Dulwich, in 1739, by Mr. Martyn. In 1472, a great ſpring broke out of the earth in this pariſh.

Between Lewiſham ſtreet and Dulwich, is a hill with an oak on it, which was called *The Oak of Honour*, becauſe queen Elizabeth dined under it, though, indeed, the old tree has been long ſince gone, and a new one planted in its room, and another tree planted juſt by, to ſupply the future defect of that likewiſe.

The following *ſcarce plants* have been obſerved in this pariſh:

Androſæmum clampoclarenſium, *on the hedge ſide beyond Lewiſham.*

Aquilegia cærula; blue columbine; ſive aquilegia vulg. ſimplex; *between Lewiſham and Bromley.*

Viola

Viola fol. trachelii ſerotina hirſuta radice lignoſa, *in the way to Lewiſham, in a great gravel-pit.*[a]

Some antiquities having been found on the edge of the heath, particularly next the town of Lewiſham, has induced an ingenious gentleman, Mr. William Harriſon, to conjecture that Lewiſham was the *Noviomagus* mentioned in the Itinerary of *Antonine*, but in this he has not been followed by any one.

In the *heraldic viſitation* of this county, begun by John Philipott, *rouge dragon*, in 1619, is the pedigree of Colfe, beginning with Amand Colfe of Calais, who married Catherine, daughter and heir of — Bradfield of Calais, by whom he had five ſons, William, Richard, Joſeph, and two others, and a daughter, Beatrix, wife of Barnaby Turner, miniſter of the goſpel. Of the ſons, Richard, born at Calais, was prebendary of Canterbury, and D. D. He died in 1613, and was buried in that cathedral, having martied three wives; firſt, the daughter of Thornton; ſecond, Alice, daughter of — Strughill; and third, Mary, daughter of Richard Rogers. By the firſt he had iſſue Abraham, who was vicar of Lewiſham, and in the great rebellion was much reverenced here by the orthodox party for his religion and learning; he had likewiſe the rectory of St. Leonard, Eaſtcheap, which the reſtleſs Preſbyterians forced him to give up to one who was ſcribe to their aſſembly of divines. After which he retired hither, where he founded a free-ſchool and alms-houſe. He died, and was buried at Lewiſham, in the church-yard, cloſe to the ſouth wall of the chancel.[b] Iſaac, the next brother of Abraham above mentioned, married the daughter of George Elſin; and Jacob, the third, was vicar of Herne. By the ſecond wife, he had Joſeph, and a daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Man, of London. And by the third, four ſons, Joſeph, another ſon of Amand, ſet-

[a] Merrett's Pinax, p. 8, 9. [b] Newc. Rep. p. 391.

tled

tled at Canterbury, where he was an alderman, and left iſſue.[c] Their arms were, *Quarterly, Colfe and Bradfield, viz.* firſt and fourth, *Or, a feſs between three colts currant ſable*; ſecond and third, *Vert, a croſs pale per croſs or and gules, between four mullets or.*

The MANOR of Lewiſham was given, with its appendages of Greenwich and Combe, by Elthruda, king Alfred's niece, as has been already mentioned, to the abbey of St. Peter at Ghent, to which Lewiſham then became a cell, or alien priory; which grant is ſaid to have been confirmed by king Edgar, in 964, and by Edward the Confeſſor in 1044, with the addition of many privileges.[d]

In Domeſday book this place is thus deſcribed, under the title of the poſſeſſions of the abbot of Ghent, which is:

*In Grenviz hundred the abbot of Ghent holds Leveſham of the King, and he held it of King Edward the Confeſſor; and it then was, and now is taxed at 2 ſulings. The arable land is 14 carucates. In demeſne there are 2 carucates, and 50 villeins, with 9 borderers, having 17 carucates. There are three ſervants, and 11 mills, with the rent of the ſocmen, amounting to 8l. 12s. Of the profit of the haven 40 ſhillings. There are 30 acres of meadow. Of wood, pannage ſufficient for 50 hogs. The whole manor in the time of K. Edward was worth 16 pounds, and afterwards 12 pounds, and now 30 pounds.*

William the Conqueror, and ſeveral of his ſucceſſors, confirmed this manor and its appendages to the above abbey; with which they remained till the ſuppreſſion of the alien priories throughout England, by the ſtatute of the 2d year of king Henry V. when they became veſted in the crown, and were the next year ſettled by the king on his new-founded houſe, or

[c] Wood's Ath. vol. i. p. 257. Faſti, 179, 180; vol. ii. p. 189.
[d] Dugd. Mon. vol. ii. p. 900. Tan. Mon. p. 209.

Carthuſian

Carthuſian priory, of Bethlehem, of or near Shene. Notwithſtanding which, king Henry VIII. found means to obtain the ſurrendry of this manor, with the rectory and advowſon of the vicarage, and annexed them to the crown in his 23d year.

John, earl of Warwick, eldeſt ſon of the duke of Northumberland, afterwards poſſeſſed this manor; on whoſe attainder it eſcheated to the crown, from whence it was, in the 5th year of queen Elizabeth, granted to his brother, Sir Ambroſe Dudley,[a] who had been reſtored in blood by queen Mary, and in the 4th year of queen Elizabeth, had been created baron L'Iſle, and the next day, earl of Warwick.[b] He ſoon after exchanged it for other lands with that princeſs; and ſhe, in the 18th of her reign, granted this manor and rectory, for forty years, to Sir Nicholas Stoddard, of Mottingham; which term expiring in 1605, king James granted another leaſe of it for forty years more, to Sir Francis Knolles, who being a perſon very zealous for the reformation, was much eſteemed by queen Elizabeth; inſomuch, that in the 1ſt year of her reign, he was made one of her privy-council, and ſhortly after that, vice-chamberlain of her houſehold, captain of her guard, treaſurer of her houſehold, and laſtly, knight of the Garter. He married Katherine, daughter of William Carie, eſq. and had by her ſeveral children; of whom William, the eldeſt ſurviving ſon, was, in the 1ſt year of king James I. created lord Knolles of Grays, in Oxfordſhire, and within a ſhort time after, knight of the Garter; in the 14th year of that reign, he was raiſed to the dignity of viſcount Wallingford; and in the 2d year of king Charles I. he was created earl of Banbury.[c] They bore for their arms, *Azure cruſele, a croſs moline voided throughout, or.*

[a] Augm. off. Fee-farm Rolls, Temp. Interregni, Roll. xiii. No. 26. Philipott, p. 217. [b] Dug. Bar. v. ii. p. 220. [c] Ib. p. 412.

King

King James, after granting the above-mentioned leaſe, granted the fee-ſimple of this manor and rectory to John Ramſey, earl of Holderneſs, who had been a page to king James, and attending him to the houſe of earl Gowry, at Perth in Scotland, in 1600, had the good fortune to diſcover the conſpiracy, which the earl and his brother Alexander, had then deſigned againſt the king's life; for which ſervice he was advanced to the title of viſcount Hadington; and for an augmentation of honour, had *An arm holding a naked ſword, with a crown in the midſt thereof, with an heart at the point*, given him, to impale with his own arms.

In the 18th year of that reign he was created baron of Kingſton upon Thames, and earl of Holderneſs, with this ſpecial addition of honour, that on the 5th day of Auguſt annually, (the day of the diſcovery) he and his heirs male for ever, ſhould bear the ſword of ſtate before the king, in remembrance of his happy deliverance. He died before the expiration of the above leaſe, and leaving no iſſue, gave his intereſt in this eſtate to his brother, Sir George Ramſay, who was naturalized by Parliament, anno 7th of James I. whoſe ſon, John Ramſay, when the former leaſe was worn out, which was about the year 1645, ſold the fee-ſimple to Reginald Grahme, eſq.[d] and he, in the latter end of king Charles II's reign, ſold this manor, with the rectory, church, parſonage, and advowſon of the vicarage, to George Legge, eſq. admiral of the royal navy, afterwards created baron Dartmouth of Dartmouth, in Devonſhire.

An anceſtor of this family is ſaid to have been Thomas Leggy, who lived in the reign of king Edward III. and was of the Skinners-company of London, and was ſheriff of that city in the 18th year of that reign, and twice lord-mayor. He was ſeveral times returned one of the citizens in Parliament for London, and gave

[d] Philipott, p. 217.

for

for his arms, *A buck's head caboſhed, on a chief three croſſes patoncee.*[a] By Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters of Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick, he had two ſons, Simon and John.

The direct deſcendant of the former was William Legge, who eminently diſtinguiſhed his loyalty to Charles I. on every occaſion, and had ſo general a reputation of integrity and fidelity, that he never fell under the leaſt imputation or reproach with any man. After the unfortunate death of the king he ſuffered great hardſhips, which did not hinder him from eſpouſing the intereſts of king Charles II. after whoſe reſtoration he received many marks of royal favour, and had many honourable and lucrative employments conferred on him.

He died at his houſe in the Minories in 1670, and was buried in the vault in the Trinity chapel there with great ſolemnity, where a monument is erected to his memory. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Waſhington of Packington, in Leiceſterſhire, by whom he had three ſons, George, William, and Edward, and two daughters.

George Legge, the eldeſt ſon and heir, who, as has been before-mentioned, purchaſed this manor of Lewiſham, and its appendages, was early in life ſent to ſea, under the care of his kinſman, Sir Edward Spragge, and was commander of ſeveral of the king's ſhips of war. In 1673 he was made governor of Portſmouth, maſter of the horſe, and gentleman of the bedchamber to the duke of York; maſter of the ordinance, and ſworn of the privy-council; and on December 2, in the 34th year of king Charles II. he was advanced to the title of baron Dartmouth of Dartmouth, in Devonſhire, to him and his heirs male, with remainder

[a] Coll. Peer. laſt edit. vol. iv. p. 300. Strype's Stow's Survey, vol. ii. book v. p. 111, and Append. 2. p. 8.

to

to his next brother, William Legge, in like tail. Having ſingular ſkill and experience in military and naval affairs, he was afterwards honoured with the poſt of admiral of the royal navy; in which capacity he was employed both in that and the next reign. During the reign of king James II. beſides other poſts, he was maſter of the horſe, general of the ordnance, conſtable of the tower, and a privy-counſellor. He commanded the royal fleet in the year 1688, at the time of the prince of Orange's landing in this kingdom: yet, notwithſtanding he brought the fleet ſafe home, and had acted by order of the king, he was deprived of all his employments at the revolution, and in 1691 committed priſoner to the tower of London; where, after three months impriſonment, he died ſuddenly of an apoplexy. By the expreſs order of king William, he had the ſame reſpect paid to him at his funeral, that would have been due to him, if he had died poſſeſſed of all his employments. He was buried near his father in the vault in the Minories, where a monument was erected to his memory, by Barbara his wife, who died 1718, and was buried in the ſame vault with him. By her, who was daughter and coheir of Sir Henry Archbold of Staffordſhire, he had one ſon, William, and ſeveral daughters.

William Legge, the only ſon of George lord Dartmouth, was raiſed by queen Anne to ſeveral poſts of honour and truſt, and was of her privy-council; and on Sept. 5, 1711, was advanced to the dignities of viſcount Lewiſham, and earl of Dartmouth. He married the lady Anne Finch, third daughter to Heneage earl of Aylesford, who died in 1751, and by her had ſix ſons and two daughters. Of the ſons, George the eldeſt, viſcount Lewiſham, died in his father's life-time, as will be further noticed.

Heneage Legge, ſecond ſon, was one of the barons of the exchequer. He married Catherine, daughter and one of the coheirs of Mr. Jonathan Fogge, merchant, of London, by whom he had iſſue, and died in 1759.

Henry

Henry Legge, fourth ſon, who took the name of Bilſon, was a perſon of great abilities, both as a ſtateſman and financier, and went through moſt of the great offices of government with reputation and integrity, and quitted them to the great regret of the nation in general. He died in 1764, having married in 1750, Mary, only daughter and heir of Edward lord Stawel, who, in 1760, was created baroneſs Stawel, with remainder to her heirs male by her ſaid huſband; by whom ſhe had one ſon, the Hon. Henry Stawel Legge, born in 1757, now lord Stawell. She afterwards remarried Wills, late earl of Hillſborough, afterwards marquis of Downſhire, and died in 1768.

Edward Legge, the fifth ſon, was a commander in the royal navy, and died in the Weſt-Indies in 1747.

The earl died at his houſe at Blackheath in this pariſh, in 1750, and was ſucceeded in honours and eſtate by William, his grandſon and heir, only ſon of his eldeſt ſon, George, viſcount Lewiſham, who had married Elizabeth, ſole daughter and heir of Sir Arthur Kaye of Yorkſhire, bart. and died in 1732, in his father's life-time. By her (who remarried with Francis, earl of Guildford) he had William, now earl of Dartmouth; and two daughters; which William earl of Dartmouth, is the preſent poſſeſſor of this manor, rectory, and advowſon of the vicarage of Lewiſham, and reſides at his ſeat on Blackheath, in this pariſh.

The earl of Dartmouth married in 1755, Frances-Catherine, only daughter and heir of Sir Charles Gunter Nicholl, K. B. and by her has ſeveral children; of whom George, the eldeſt, lord viſcount Lewiſham, was born in 1755, and married in 1782 lady Sarah, ſiſter of the earl of Aylesford.

He bears for his arms, *Azure, a buck's head coboſhed argent.* For creſt, *in a ducal coronet or, a plume of five oſtrich feathers, party per pale, argent and azure.* And for ſupporters, on the dexter ſide, *a lion argent, ſemé of*

*of fleur de lis sable, and crowned, as the creſt*; on the ſiniſter, *a buck argent, ſemée of mullets gules.*

George lord Dartmouth, obtained from king Charles II. a grant, to hold a fair twice a year, and a market twice a week, upon Blackheath in this pariſh. The former of which uſed to be held on the 12th of May, and the 11th of October; but it has ſince the year 1772, been diſcontinued, (excepting for the ſale of cattle) by public notice, given by the earl of Dartmouth, as lord of the manor.

CATFORD is a manor in this pariſh, which was anciently the inheritance of a family of the name of Abel, who dwelt at Hering-hill in Erith; one of whom, John Abel, had a charter of *free-warren*, for his lands here at Lewiſham, and in Hachecham and Camberwelle, in the 23d of king Edward I. Soon after this it came into the poſſeſſion of that great prelate, Anthony Beke, biſhop of Durham, at whoſe death it eſcheated to the crown; but in the 4th of king Edward III. it was granted, with other manors and lands, to Sir William de Montacute,[a] knight banneret, and his wife Katherine, in tail, with remainder to the king, &c. as a reward for having apprehended Roger Mortimer at Nottingham; and he obtained, the next year, a charter of confirmation for free warren in this manor. In the 10th year of king Edward III. he was conſtituted admiral of the king's fleet, weſtward; and having ſerved the king with great ſucceſs in his Scottiſh wars, he was, the next year, in a full parliament held at London, advanced to the title and dignity of earl of Saliſbury. After which he obtained a grant, dated at Antwerp in the 12th year of that reign, of the office of marſhal of England, void by the death of Thomas, earl of Norfolk.[b]

The year after which the manor of Catford became by his gift, part of the poſſeſſions of the chantry or college of St. Laurence Poultney in London, then newly founded by Sir John Poultney, knt. a man

[a] Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 21. [b] Dug. Bar. v. i. p. 645 to 675.

of great account at that time, as well for his wiſdom as large riches; and it remained in the poſſeſſion of the college till its ſuppreſſion, in the reign of king Edward VI. when it was granted, among other lands, by the deſcription of a capital meſſuage, called Catford, of the clear yearly value of 3l. 14s. 1d. to Henry Polſted and William More, for 2034l.[a]

Theſe Polſteds were of a family of great antiquity in the county of Surry; for Hugh de Polſted gave lands, called Inwood, in the 16th year of king John, to the abbey of Waverſley in that county.[b] They bore for their arms, as appears by the viſitation of the county of Surry, *Argent fretty ſable.*

Catford continued in the name of Polſted till Francis Polſted, couſin and heir of Richard, ſold it, in the 20th year of queen Elizabeth, to Brian Anneſley, eſq. of the adjoining pariſh of Lee, in reverſion, after the death of Elizabeth, the wife of John Wolley, and widow of Richard Polſted above-mentioned. Brian Anneſley died without iſſue male, leaving three daughters his coheirs, Chriſtian, married to William lord Sandys; Grace, to Sir John Wildgorſe, and Cordelia, to Sir William Hervey, the two laſt of whom ſhared the inheritance of this place between them.[b] From them it paſſed by ſale to Edward lord Montague, of Boughton, in Northamptonſhire, ſon of Sir Edward Montague, who was created lord Montague, baron of Boughton, by patent, anno 19 king James I. His deſcendant and great grand-ſon, John duke of Montague, in 1717, procured an act of parliament to veſt the manor of Catford in Lewiſham, with appurtenances, and the capital meſſuage and appurtenances called Catford, with the lands, &c. belonging to it, in Lewiſham, Lee, and Deptford, and the moiety of the manor or farm, ſome time called Foreſt-place, and then Brockley-farm. The other moiety, ſituated in Deptford, being called

[a] Strype's Stow's Survey, book ii. p. 189, and Augtn. off. ſale of chantry land T. Edw. VI. [b] Philipott, p. 218.

Hither

Hither or Upper Brockley, with its appurtenances in Brockley and Lewiſham, with all rents, ſervices, &c. belonging to it, and the capital meſſuage called Bankers and Great Hatchfield, with their lands and appurtenances in thoſe pariſhes, (which laſt-mentioned eſtate had been before the property of the family of Birde, and before that of that of Banquelle or Bankwell, of the adjoining pariſh of Lee); being then the eſtates of Ralph, late duke of Montague, and then of John duke of Montague, his ſon, in truſtees, to ſell the ſame, towards the payment of debts.

The truſtees accordingly paſſed away theſe manors and capital meſſuages, with the reſt of the eſtates as above-mentioned, to James Craggs, ſenior, eſq. joint poſt-maſter-general; on whoſe death in 1721, without iſſue male, (his only ſon, James Craggs, eſq. one of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate, dying on February 16, preceding,) they deſcended to his three daughters and coheirs, married to Newſham, Eliot, and Trefuſis; ſince which they have continued in the ſame clue of ownerſhip that Kidbrooke, in the pariſh of Charlton, has, and as ſuch are now veſted in the right honourable Edward lord Eliot, of Port Eliot, in Cornwall.[c]

The manor of Billingham in this pariſh was poſſeſſed by the Ciſtercian monaſtery of Stratford Langthorne, founded at Weſt Ham, in Eſſex, by William de Montfitchet, about the year 1134. After which, in the 15th year of king Edward I. the temporalities of the abbot at Leveſham were valued at 7l. 11s. 8d. per annum, at the diſſolution of which it came to the crown, and was, in the 1ſt year of queen Mary, granted to Rich. Wheatly, to hold *in capite*. His daughter and heir Philippa, married John Rocheſter, who afterwards poſſeſſed this manor and levied a fine of it in Eaſter term, anno 17 Elizabeth. In whoſe poſſeſſion it paſſed afterwards I have not found for ſome length of time, only that it came ſome years ſince into the poſſeſſion of Thomas Inwin, eſq. whoſe

[c] Tan. Mon. p. 126. [d] Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 455.

daughter, Sarah, viſcounteſs Falkland, (whoſe firſt huſband was Henry earl of Suffolk) died poſſeſſed of it in 1776, and by her will deviſed it for life to her huſband, Lucius lord Falkland, and the remainder in fee to Francis Motley Auſtin, eſq. of Wilmington, ſince of Kippington, in Sevenoke, who ſince purchaſed lord Falkland's intereſt in it, and is the preſent poſſeſſor of this manor.

As to THE PRIORY here, ſo much has already been ſaid of it before, in the account of the manor of Lewiſham, that little more need be particularized of it, farther than, that on the grant of the manor of Lewiſham and its appendages, to St. Peter's abbey, at Ghent, by Elthruda, king Alfred's niece, the abbot and convent built a manſion here, afterwards called the *Priory of Lewiſham*, under the government of one who had the title of Prior, and being thus connected with St. Peter's abbey, it was eſteemed a benedictine cell, or alien priory, to it.

There were not many formal foundations of theſe cells; the courſe being for the moſt part, after a grant of land, or other poſſeſſions here to a monaſtery abroad (as by a multitude of inſtances may be ſhewn) for the monks beyond ſea, either with an intention to increaſe their own order, or perhaps rather to have faithful ſtewards of their revenues, to build convenient houſes for the reception of a ſmall convent, and then to ſend over ſuch a number of their order as they thought proper. Some of theſe cells were conventual, and conſiſted of a certain number of monks, who had a prior ſent them by the ſuperior abbey; others were permitted to chooſe their own prior, and theſe were entire ſocieties within themſelves, and received the revenues belonging to their ſeveral houſes for their own uſe and benefit, paying only perhaps a yearly penſion, as an acknowledgement of their ſubjection, or what was at firſt, the ſurpluſage to the foreign houſe. In ſuch cells as had their priors ſet over them

them, their monks were moſtly foreigners, and removeable at pleaſure, and they returned all their revenues to the foreign head houſes; for which reaſon their eſtates were ſeized generally during the wars between England and France, and reſtored to them again upon the return of peace.

The firſt public ſeizure of this kind, at leaſt upon authority, was in the 23d of king Edward I. as appears by the roll of that year, in which the particular perſons of each county, to whom the cuſtody of theſe houſes was committed, are recorded. They were to retain them in their hands during the king's pleaſure, anſwering to his exchequer the profits of them, according to the directions and orders made by the king and his council. And it was uſual for the king, after ſuch ſeizures in the time of war, in conſideration of a rent to be paid him yearly into the exchequer, to commit theſe cells, with what belonged to them, to their reſpective priors, to hold during his pleaſure.

In the 4th year of king Henry IV. there was a new conſideration had in the parliament then held, touching theſe priories alien, that they ſhould be again ſeized into the king's hands, excepting thoſe that were conventual; upon which the ſheriff of each county had command to give warning to the priors of theſe cells, within their reſpective limits, to appear in their proper perſons at Weſtminſter, and to bring with them all their charters and evidences, by which the king himſelf and his council might be ſatisfied, whether they had been priories conventual time out of mind, or not.[a] The priory of Lewiſham ſeeems to have been one of theſe conventual alien priories, and is ſaid to have paid a rent-ſervice of forty ſhillings per annum to its ſuperior monaſtery at Ghent, in the 12th year of king Richard II. In which ſituation it continued till the general ſuppreſſion of the

[a] Tan. Mon. Præf. p. xxvii. Dugd. War. p. 24, 25, 605.

alien priories throughout England, in the 2d year of king Henry V. when, in the parliament held that year at Leiceſter, one hundred and forty-two of them were ſuppreſſed, and their houſes and poſſeſſions given to the king and his heirs. Though this act is not in the ſtatute book, it is mentioned among the patent rolls of 3 Henry V. It recites, that the commons having conſidered that the head abbies beyond ſea, poſſeſſing the lands and revenues of theſe alien priories, great ſums of money were carried out of the nation, and foreſeeing, that when the war was begun with France, all the ſubjects of England, holding lands in that kingdom, would be diſpoſſeſſed, they, therefore made this act to diſſeize theſe foreign monaſteries of the priories alien, and veſt the ſame in the king and his heirs for ever. The next year after the ſuppreſſion of this priory, the king ſettled it on his new erected Carthuſian monaſtery, at Shene, in Surry, as has been before-mentioned.[a]

## CHARITIES.

ABRAHAM COLFE, vicar of Lewiſham, who died in 1657, founded in his life-time, Two Free Schools, one for teaching Engliſh, and the other for teaching Latin, with ſeveral yearly allowances to the ſchoolmaſters, and towards the maintenance of ſome of the ſcholars at the univerſities, the overſight and government of which he committed to the company of Leatherſellers of London. He likewiſe founded an Alms-houſe in this pariſh, and in the 16th year of king Charles II. an act paſſed for ſettling the charitable gift of Abraham Colfe, clerk, for erecting and endowing two free-ſchools and an alms-houſe, at Lewiſham, in Kent. This free-ſchool is now commonly called Blackheath-ſchool, from its ſituation near it, upon the declivity next to Lewiſham, and maintains a good reputation for learning and the education of youth. When a maſter is to be choſen, the truſtees, (the Leatherſellers company) meet at the ſchool-houſe, where the candidates are ſtrictly examined in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages before the head maſters of Weſtminſter and Merchant Tailors ſchools, the learned deputies of the preſident and aſſiſtants of Sion-college, and the clergy of Blackheath-hundred.

The endowment now paid on account of theſe charities by the Leatherſellers company, is for the teaching thirty-one boys of

[a] Philipott, p. 217. Rapin's Hiſt. vol. i. p. 509. note 4.

this

this hundred, 30l. for an uſher (beſides a houſe to live in) 20l. for ſeven poor ſcholars, to be ſent to the univerſity yearly, 70l. to buy books, 1l. 4s. for teaching thirty-one boys in the Engliſh ſchool, 20l. for books for ditto, 3l. for the maintenance of five alms-people, 22l. 15s. and for a gown for each, 2l. 5s. Beſides the above, Mr. COLFE left by his will, for the benefit of the poor of this pariſh the annual produce of 2l. 4s. for poor perſons attending prayers at church, houſes and land of the annual produce of 1l. to be paid to a maid ſervant, on her marriage, the amount of 5s. for certain houſes and lands, for placing out apprentices, to be paid out of houſes and lands, the annual ſum of 3l. and for books, for poor perſons, from the like, the annual produce of 1l. all likewiſe veſted in the ſame company.

MARGARET, firſt wife of Jaſper Valentine, and afterwards of Abraham Colfe, vicar of this pariſh, gave by will, 20s. yearly to the poor of this pariſh for ever.

STEPHEN BATH, in 1547, gave by will, to be laid out for the poor in bread, land veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 2s.

JOHN GLYNN, vicar, in 1564, gave 100l. towards a ſchool in this pariſh.

RICHARD GRIMES, in 1570, gave by will, for the like purpoſe, lands veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 5s.

WILLIAM LAMBARDE, in 1576 gave, by will, three almsplots for poor perſons, veſted in the Drapers company.

THOMAS WARE, in 1612, gave for the poor to live in, a houſe, veſted in the overſeers of this pariſh and Greenwich.

WILLIAM HATCLIFFE, in 1620, gave by will, for the benefit of poor perſons of this pariſh, certain houſes and land, veſted in truſtees, now of the annual produce of 22l. 11s. 6d.

GEORGE HATCLIFFE gave by will, 10s. to the miniſter of this pariſh, for a ſermon on New year's day, 10s. to the churchwardens, and 10s. to the poor for ever on the ſame day.

HUMPHRY STREET gave by will, in 1623, to be diſtributed in bread to the poor, a houſe, veſted in the vicar and churchwardens, of the annual produce of 4l. and another houſe, for the like uſe, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 1l.

PRISCILLA JONES, in 1625, gave by will, for the benefit of the poor, to be diſtributed in bread, a like gift, veſted in the Leatherſellers company, and of the annual produce of 1l.

EDMUND STYLE, in 1626, gave by will, for the like uſe, houſes and land, veſted in truſtees, of the ann. produce of 11l. 8s.

BEVIL MOLESWORTH, in 1630, gave by will, for the like uſe, a houſe, veſted in the vicar and churchwardens, of the annual produce of 1l. 5s.

THOMAS MANN, in 1642, gave by will, for the like uſe, a houſe, veſted in the Leatherſellers company, of the annual produce of 1l. 10s.

WALTER HULL gave by will, for the like uſe, certain houſes and lands veſted in the vicar and churchwardens, of the annual value of 1l. 5s.

WILLIAM BOND, in 1671, gave by will, for the benefit of poor perſons, certain lands, veſted in truſt, of the ann. produce of 8l.

VALENTINE SPARROW, in 1726, gave by will, to be diſtributed in bread to the poor, the ſum of 139l. 3s. 6d. 3 per cent. Bank annuities, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 2l. 12s.

Dean GEORGE STANHOPE, vicar of this pariſh, in 1727, gave by will, and the pariſh of Lewiſham by gift, gave 250l. new South Sea annuities, veſted in truſtees, and Anne Stanhope, in 1730, gave by will, 50l. old South Sea annuities, the product of the 300l. being 9l. per annum, the whole of the ſame towards the ſupport of the charity ſchool, in this pariſh, which had been ſet forward in 1704, for thirty girls, and had been ſupported by the voluntary ſubſcriptions of ſeveral perſons, to the amount of 20l. per annum.

JAMES BROOKS, in 1750, gave by will, for the uſe of the poor in bread, 100l. veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 3l.

RICHARD BROOKS, in 1767, gave by will, for the benefit of ſix poor houſekeepers, 100l. 3 per cent. Bank annuities, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 3l.

BARTHO TAYER, in 1768, gave by will, for ſix alms people, in money, 100l. 3 per cent. Bank annuities, veſted in the Leather-ſellers company, and of the annnal produce of 3l.

SUSANNA BRETT, in 1773, gave by will, for the uſe of the poor in bread, 100l. old South Sea annuities, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 3l.

Lady SARAH FALKLAND, in 1776, gave by will, for the uſe of the poor, in bread, 250l. old South Sea annuities, veſted in truſtees, of the annual produce of 7l. 10s.

Dr. BRYAN DUPPA, biſhop of Wincheſter, who was born in this pariſh, and died in 1662, was a good benefactor to the poor of it.

Lewiſham is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* of Rocheſter and *deanry* of Dartford. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. It was, from the earlieſt account of time, an appendage to the manor of Lewiſham, and as ſuch was given by Elthruda, king Alfred's niece, to the Benedictine abbey of Ghent, which was confirmed at times by ſeveral of our kings, particularly by king Henry III. with the churches, church-yards, lands, tithes, and appurtenances.

It was appropriated by Gilbert de Glanville, biſhop of Rocheſter, in king Henry II.'s reign, to the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Ghent, with all its obventions,

ventions, to be poſſeſſed by them, in perpetual alms, and to be converted by them to their own proper uſe, ſaving a ſufficient ſupport for a curate, together with a clerk *(capellanus cum clerico)* to be preſented to the biſhop, and to ſerve in the church ſo long as he ſhould be uſeful to the monks, and ſaving to the biſhop all epiſcopal right, &c. To which grant was witneſs, among others, Sigon, prior of Lewiſham. This was confirmed by biſhop Benedict, and afterwards by biſhop Richard, in 1239. On an inquiſition, taken of the profits and revenues of the biſhopric of Rocheſter, in the 53d year of king Henry III. it was returned, that the biſhop was entitled to receive a yearly penſion of four marcs from this church.

King Edward III. in his 17th year, directed his writ to the biſhop of Rocheſter, to return the names of aliens beneficed within his dioceſe, and the names of the reſpective benefices, and who of them were reſident on them. To which the biſhop made return, that the abbot and convent of Ghent poſſeſſed to their own proper uſe this church, with the temporals and ſpirituals annexed to it, and that brother William Sergotz, the proctor of the abbot and convent, reſided here. A like writ was iſſued in the 20th year of the ſame reign, when the biſhop made return, that the abbot and convent poſſeſſed to their own proper uſe this church, taxed at twenty marcs, but that they were not reſident on the ſame.[a]

In the parliament held at Leiceſter, in the 2d year of king Henry V. an act paſſing for the ſuppreſſion of all theſe alien priories, by which their houſes, lands, and poſſeſſions were granted to the king and his heirs, this church, as part of the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of Ghent, became veſted in the crown, where it ſtaid only till the next year, when the king ſettling this manor of Lewiſham, with its appurtenances, on his new-founded Carthuſian monaſtery at Shene, the

[a] Reg. Roff. p. 126, 127. Tan. Mon. p. 544.

church,

church, as an appendage, paſſed with it at the ſame time.

In the Regiſter of John Langdon, biſhop of Rocheſter, in the 13th year of king Henry VI. and of biſhop Fiſher, in 1508, it appears, that the prior and convent of Shene, holding the church of Lewiſham appropriate, paid to the biſhop a penſion of forty ſhillings yearly.[a]

Several diſputes having ariſen between John Bokynham, prior, and the convent of Shene, appropriators of this church, and maſter William Frome, perpetual vicar of it, concerning the right of taking the tithes of hay of the demeſne meadows, and the tithes of *ſilva cædua* of the demeſne wood of *Leveſham*, a compoſition was made between them, with the conſent of John biſhop of Rocheſter, who by his inſtrument, under his ſeal, anno 1431, decreed, with the conſent of both parties, that the prior and convent, and their ſucceſſors, poſſeſſors of this church, ſhould take yearly for the future all the tithes of hay of the demeſne meadows, and thoſe of *ſylva cædua* of the demeſne woods of the town and pariſh of *Leveſham*, as before poſſeſſed by them, and that maſter William Frome, vicar, and his ſucceſſors, in recompence of the right which they, as vicars of this church, had or might claim in it, and of the loſs which the vicarage of this church, and the vicars of it might undergo from the not taking of the tithes aforeſaid, and for the promoting of peace and quietneſs between the parties, ſhould peaceably and quietly take and have from that time, the half part of the wax offered in the church, on the feaſt of the Purification of the Bleſſed Virgin Mary, which half part of the wax ſo offered, either by right or compoſition, or by the ordination of the vicarage antiently made, was due to the proprietaries of this church. And the parties granted for themſelves and their ſucceſſors for ever, that it ſhould be lawful

[a] Reg. Roff. p. 136, 142.

for

for the biſhop of Rocheſter for the time being, or his vicar general, his official, or the keeper of the ſpiritualities of the biſhopric, in the vacancy of the ſee, by ſequeſtering the profits either of the church of Lewiſham or the vicarage of it, canonically to compel both or either of the parties to the keeping of this compoſition. King Henry VIII. in his 23d year, obtained the poſſeſſion of this church and vicarage from the above priory in exchange, when John Joburne, the prior of Shene, and the convent of the ſame place, by deed dated in their chapter houſe, granted to the king their manor of Lewiſham, with its appurtenances, and the advowſon and patronage of the church, vicarage, and rectory of Lewiſham.

Since which the rectory or parſonage, and the advowſon of the vicarage, have paſſed, with the manor of Lewiſham, through the ſame proprietors to the right honourable the earl of Dartmouth, who is the preſent owner of them. In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Lewiſham was valued at twenty marcs, and the vicarage at ten marcs.[b]

By virtue of the *commiſſion of enquiry* into the value of church livings, in 1650, out of the court of chancery, it was returned, that Lewiſham was a vicarage, worth one hundred and twenty pounds per annum, maſter Abraham Colſe then enjoying it; that the houſe, and fifty-four acres of glebe land, were worth beſides fifty pounds per annum.[c] The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 23l. 19s. 2d. and the yearly tenths at 2l. 7s. 11d.[d]

In the year 1774, the church of Lewiſham requiring great repairs to ſupport it, and becoming too ſmall to contain the numerous inhabitants of this pariſh, the pariſhioners applied to parliament for powers to rebuild it. Accordingly an act paſſed that

[b] Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456. [c] Parl. Sur. Lam. lib. v. xix.
[d] Bacon's Lib. Regis.

year

year to enable commiſſioners to take down and rebuild it, and to raiſe a ſum for that purpoſe, by annuities or lives, not exceeding five thouſand pounds. In purſuance of which the old church was pulled down, and a new one has ſince been erected on the ſame ſpot, in which ſervice was firſt performed on Sunday, September 7, 1777. Within a few days after which part of the eaſt ſide of it fell to the ground, which was quickly afterwards repaired and made good.

In the *old church*, among others, on the north ſide, was a monument for John Perry, eſq. of Blackheath, ob. 1732, æt. 92; and for his wife, ob. 1733, æt. 72. On the ſouth ſide, one for Thomas Dyer, eſq. barriſter at law, and Catharine his wife; they both died in 1748. *In the chancel*, a memorial for Suſan, wife of Reginald Grahme, lord of this manor, and ſecond daughter of Sir William Waſhington, ob. 1698, æt. 81. Two memorials for two infant daughters of Sir William Wylde, knt. and bart. and dame Frances his wife, in 1666 and 1668. Within the altar rails, a memorial for George Stanhope, S. T. P. dean of Canterbury and vicar of this church, 1728; another with the figure of a man, in braſs, for George, ſon and heir of William Haltecliff, eſq. one of the king's treaſurers in Ireland, and one of the clerks of his houſehold, ob. 1514. On the *north ſide*, a monument for Margaret, firſt wife of Jaſper Valentine, afterwards of Abraham Colſe, paſtor of Lewiſham, ob. 1643; another for Thomas Jones, eſq. common ſergeant of the city of London, ob. 1625, and Priſcilla, his wife, who died the ſame year. On the *north ſide*, one for dean Stanhope above mentioned, thirty eight years vicar of this pariſh and twenty-ſix of Deptford; another for Olivia, daughter of Charles Cotton, eſq. of Staffordſhire, and wife of dean Stanhope, ob. 1707. In the *ſouth chancel*, a memorial for ſeveral of the Dyers; two monuments for the family of Symes, of Blackheath;

Blackheath; a monument for the family of Dyer. At the back of the pulpit were the arms of Valentine, carved on the wainſcot. On the north ſide of the chancel was an antient ſtone coffin, caſed over with board, which forms a ſeat of two pews, near the rails of the altar; it probably contained the remains of one of the priors of the cell in this pariſh. On the ſouth wall of the church, on the outſide, near the eaſt end, was a ſmall monument for Abraham Colfe, late miniſter of Lewiſham, ob. 1657.[a]

There were *two chantries* founded at Lewiſham, one by Richard Walker, for one prieſt to celebrate maſs at the altar of the Trinity, for the founder's ſoul; the other by Roger Fitz, who, by the appointment of his will, anno 17 king Henry VII. deviſed his two houſes, the Lion and the Ram, in the Stews, on the Bankſide, near London, to be ſold to build the chantry-houſe, and endow it with maintenance for one prieſt, to celebrate at the altar of the Trinity, in Lewiſham church, for the founder's ſoul.

## *CHURCH OF LEWISHAM.*

| PATRONS, *Or by whom preſented.* | VICARS. |
|---|---|
| *Abbot and Convent of Ghent*..... | *Richard*, firſt vicar, 1267. |
| *Prior and Convent of Shene*..... | *William Frome*, 1431. |
| | *John Witton*, obt. 1444.[b] |
| | *William Helwiſe*, in 1476, and in 1483. |
| | *Roger Tochett*, in July 1483, reſigned 1530. |
| | *John Crayford*, inſtituted 5 July, 1530. |
| *The Crown*..... ..... | *John Glynn*, Oct. 11, 1545.[c] |
| | *John Bungay*, 1568, ob. 1595.[d] |

[a] See an account of the monuments and memorials at large, in the old church of Lewiſham, Reg. Roff. p. 845.

[b] His will was proved June 20th, 1444.

[c] Buried in the chancel, Nov. 1758.

[d] And prebendary of Canterbury. Anth. Wood ſays, that Jeffry Duppa was vicar here in 1580. See Ath. Ox. vol. ii. p. 271.

PATRONS,

*Church of Lewiſham. Continued.*

| PATRONS, &c. | VICARS. |
|---|---|
| *The Crown* | *Hadrianus de Saravia*, D. D. reſigned 1610.[a] |
| | *Abraham Colfe*, inducted May 1, 1610, obt. Dec. 5, 1657.[b] |
| *George Legge, eſq.* | *Alexander Davidſon*, A. M. inſtituted March 2, 1677, obt. 1688. |
| | *George Stanhope*, A. M. inſtituted Aug. 3, 1689, obt. Mar. 18, 1728.[c] |
| *William Legge Earl of Dartmouth* | *John Inglis*, A. M. Ap. 5, 1728, obt. Oct. 18, 1739. |
| | *William Lowth*, B. D. inducted Decem. 15, 1739, obt. Feb. 1795.[d] |
| | *Hugh Jones*, A. M. Sep. 1795. Preſent vicar. |

Anno 5 king George III. an act paſſed for the more eaſy and ſpeedy recovery of ſmall debts within the hundreds of Blackheath, Bromley, and Beckenham, Rokeſley, and Little and Leſnes; and in the 10th year of it, another act paſſed to explain and amend the ſame.

[a] And prebendary of Canterbury, where he lies buried. He died Jan. 15, 1612.

[b] See page 506.

[c] He was alſo vicar of Deptford and dean of Canterbury, and lies buried in the chancel of this church.

[d] Alſo vicar of St. Margaret's, Rocheſter, and prebendary of Wincheſter, in 1759, and elder brother to the late biſhop of London.

THE

THE

# HUNDRED

OF

# BROMLEY AND BECKENHAM.

THIS HUNDRED lies next ſouthward from that of BLACKHEATH, and is called, in the general ſurvey of Domeſday, the *hundred of Bronlei*, by which name it continued to be called in the 7th year of king Edward I. but in the 20th year of Edward III. it was known by its preſent name, the addition of the name of *Beckenham* being in fact no more than the name of one of the two half hundreds, into which this hundred was divided. Two conſtables have juriſdiction over it. In the 7th year of king Edward I. the king and the biſhop of Rocheſter were *lords paramount* of it.

IT CONTAINS THE PARISHES OF

1. BECKENHAM. 2. BROMLEY.

And the churches of both theſe pariſhes.

## BECKENHAM,

THIS PARISH is ſituated wholly within the county of Kent, though its bounds extend weſtward to that of Surry.

It is called in Domeſday, BACHEHAM, and in the *Textus Roffenſis*, BECCEHAM, being ſo called from its ſituation on the river Ravenſborne, *Becc*, in Saxon, ſignifying a river, and *ham*, a village or dwelling.

The

The pariſh of Beckenham, like thoſe already deſcribed, is interſperſed throughout with handſome ſeats and buildings, moſtly inhabited by perſons of faſhion and opulence, too numerous to be particularly mentioned here. Its ſmall diſtance from the capital, and its pleaſant and healthy ſituation make it a moſt deſirable retreat from the hurry and confuſed buſtle of the town. It is watered on the eaſtern ſide by the river Ravenſborne, and the middle of it by a ſmall ſtream, which being joined by another, at the north-weſt corner of the pariſh, meets the above mentioned river below at Lewiſham. The village is ſituated on the northern ſide of the pariſh, having the church and Fox-grove, near the eaſt end of it, and at a ſmall diſtance northward, Beckenham-place and park, the houſe of which only is in this pariſh, the out offices being in that of Bromley. Southward of the village ſtands the ſeat of Kelſeys and the Temple, both belonging to lord Gwydir, the latter inhabited by his ſiſter the dutcheſs of Hamilton, beyond which is the reſidence of lord Gwydir, which ſtands on an eſtate which belonged to Mr. Cator, and was exchanged by him for other lands, for which an act paſſed in 1793. The houſe was originally built by Mr. Kirkman of London, but there have been great additions and improvements made to it ſince, and a ſhrubbery walk and communication with Langley-park, which is at about a quarter of a mile diſtance; at the extremity of the park, near the north-weſt corner of the pariſh is the hamlet of Elmer's-end, and near it is the ſeat of lord Auckland; thoſe of Penge-green and Kent-houſe are at the boundary of it towards Sydenham. The ſoil is much given to gravel and clay, in the middle of it is moſtly a red ſand, though towards Bromley there is ſome ſtrong fertile land.

Some have conjectured, that the *great council*, compoſed of the clergy and nobility, which is ſaid to have been convened at *Becanceld*, in the year 694, by Withred

thred king of Kent, was held at this place, but Mr. Camden, Dr. Plott, Mr. Johnſon of Cranbrooke, and others have, with much more probability, ſuppoſed it to have been held at *Bapchild*, about a mile and a half eaſtward from Sittingborne, on the high road from London to Canterbury, and midway between the coaſt of Kent and London, and therefore a much more convenient place for a *Kentiſh council*.[a]

At the time of taking the general ſurvey of Domeſday, by William the Conqueror, in the year 1080, this place was part of the poſſeſſions of Odo, the great biſhop of Baieux, under the general title of whoſe lands it is thus deſcribed in it:

*In Brunlei hundred Anſgotus de Rocheſter holds of the biſhop (of Baieux) Bacheham. It was taxed at 2 ſulings. The arable land is eight carucates. In demeſne there are 2 carucates, and 22 villeins, with 8 borderers, having 8 carucates and a half. There are 12 acres of meadow, and 4 ſervants, and 1 mill, and wood for the pannage of 60 hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confeſſor, and afterwards, it was worth 9 pounds, now 13 pounds. Anſchil held it of king Edward.*

In the beginning of the above ſurvey, Anſchillus de Bacheham above mentioned is ſaid to have had the liberties of *ſac* and *ſoc* within his lands, in the lath of Sutton.

In the reign of king Edward I. the manor of Beckenham was held by a family, called in old Latin records, *De Rupella*, in French, *De la Rochell*, and in Engliſh, *Rokele*, who came originally from Rochell, in France.[b] Richard de la Rokele died poſſeſſed of it in the 5th year of king Edward I. when it was found by inquiſition, that he held it *in capite*, as one knight's fee.[c] He was ſucceeded in the poſſeſſion of this eſtate by Philip de la Rokele, who held it at his death,

[a] See Wilkins's Councils, vol. i. p. 56. [b] Philipott, p. 63.
[c] Rot. Eſch. ejus anni, No. 6.

in the 23d year of that reign, and left it to his ſole daughter and heir, Iſolda, and ſhe carried it in marriage to Sir William Bruyn. In memory of which match, the arms of Bruyn quartering thoſe of Rokele, viz. *Azure, a croſs-moline or*, quartering *Lozengy, ermine and gules*, were ſet up in one of the windows of Barham church, in this county.[a] Theſe two coats of arms are now borne, with the other quarterings, by the earl of Derby.[b]

His deſcendant, Sir Ingelram, or Ingram Bruin, knt. of South Okendon, in Eſſex, died poſſeſſed of this manor and the advowſon of this church in the year 1400, and lies buried with his anceſtors in that church, and his widow, Elizabeth, was owner of them at her death, in the 8th year of king Henry IV. the ſame being the inheritance of Maurice their ſon.[c] His deſcendant, Sir Henry Bruin, about the beginning of king Edward IV.'s reign, left two daughters and coheirs, Alice and Elizabeth, each of whom had three huſbands. The former married firſt Robert Harleſton, eſq. of Eſſex; ſecondly Sir John Heveningham; and laſtly William Berners, eſq. The latter married firſt William Malory, eſq. by whom ſhe had no iſſue; ſecondly William Brandon, eſq. who was afterwards knighted, and ſtandard-bearer to Henry VII. in Boſworth-field, where he was ſlain, by whom ſhe had iſſue Sir Charles Brandon duke of Suffolk. He was the flower and perfection of the Engliſh nobility of that time, who ſometimes kept his reſidence at this place (not, I imagine, as proprietary, but as leſſee) where he entertained king Henry VIII. with great pomp and magnificence, as he went to beſtow a viſit at Hever, on his repudiated wife, Anne of Cleve.[d] She married laſtly Thomas Tirril, eſq. of Herne, in Eſſex, whoſe family is ſaid to have enjoyed the honour

[a] Philipott, p. 63.
[b] Cooke's Bar. MSS.
[c] Rot. Eſch. ejus an.
[d] Philipott, p. 63.

of

of knighthood in a direct line for more than four hundred years, and to be deſcended from Sir Walter Tirrill, who held land in Eſſex at the time of the general ſurvey, and is ſaid to have ſhot king William Rufus in the New foreſt. The ſeveral branches of the Tirrills bear the ſame coat, with their reſpective differences, viz. *Argent, two chevrons azure within a bordure engrailed gules.*[e]

Theſe two daughters of Sir Henry Bruyn divided this manor and the advowſon of the church between them; and their huſbands ſucceſſively, in right of their wives, poſſeſſed the ſame in moieties. By an inquiſition, taken in the 13th year of king Edward IV. it was found that Alice, late wife of John Hevening-ham, held at her death the half part of the manor of *Begenham*, and the moiety of the advowſon *in capite*; and that John Berners, ſon of John Berners, was her ſon and heir, and in 1742, there was a licence from Richard III. in his firſt year, to 'Sir John Hynyng-ham, to entre in the manoir of *Bekyngham*,' &c. by reaſon of the ſaid John Berner's minority.[f]

In the 22d year of king Henry VIII. Henry Har-leſton of Cookſale, alienated this his moiety, with its appurtenances, and the moiety of the advowſon of the church, to Robert Leigh of London, merchant;[g] and his deſcendant, Mr. Robert Leigh, about the middle of king James's reign, alienated it to Sir Henry Snel-grave, from whom it deſcended to his grandſon, Mr. Henry Snelgrave, who, in the latter end of Charles I.'s reign, paſſed it away to Mr. Walter St. John. The Snelgraves bore for their arms, *Or, three oak trees pulled up by the roots vert.*

Elizabeth, the ſecond daughter of Sir Henry Bruin poſſeſſed the other moiety; and it ſeems as if her ſe-

[e] Guillim, p. 71. Cambden, Britan. p. 1010. Guillim, pt. ii. 189.

[f] Inquiſ. ejus an. Among the Harl. MSS. No. 433.

[g] Rot. Eſch. ejus an. pt. 1.

cond huſband, Sir William Brandon, by promoting the intereſts of the earl of Richmond, had forfeited his intereſt in this manor, for in the 2d year of king Richard III. there was an agreement made by the king, with Edmund Shaa, Thomas Tyrelle, Richard Fitz-Hughes, and Humphry Tyrelle Squires, touching the manors of South Wokington, in Eſſex, and *Bekengham*, in Kent, which late belonged to William Brandon Squire,[a] which they had purchaſed of the king; however it appears by an inquiſition, taken in the 7th year of king Henry VII. after the death of Elizabeth before mentioned, wife of Thomas Tyrril, eſq. that ſhe died poſſeſſed of this moiety of both manor and advowſon, which were held *in capite*. Their deſcendant, Thomas Tyrril, afterwards held this eſtate, and in the reign of queen Elizabeth, John Dalſton, in right of his wife Elizabeth, ſiſter and heir of Thomas Tyrril, held this moiety of the manor of *Eaſt Beckingham*, and of the church, of the queen as above mentioned.

From him this moiety deſcended to Sir George Dalſton of Cumberland, who about the middle of Charles I.'s reign, alienated it to Sir Patrick Curwin of Workinton, in the ſame county, who had been created a baronet, anno 1626, whoſe anceſtors are ſaid to be deſcended from Goſpatrick earl of Northumberland, who took that name from Culwen, vulgarly called *Curwen*, a family of Galloway, the heir of which they had married. They bore for their arms, *Argent a fretty gules a chief azure*. He, at the latter end of the ſame reign, conveyed his intereſt in it to Sir Oliver St. John of Batterſea, in Surry, from whom it came to Mr. Walter St. John, afterwards a baronet, on the death of his nephew, Sir John St. John, bart. ſon of Oliver before mentioned, who having before purchaſed the other moiety of this manor and

[a] See the original among the Harleian MSS. No. 433-2169.

advowſon

advowſon of Mr. Henry Snelgrave, as has been already related, now poſſeſſed the entire fee of them both.

This family of St. John is paternally deſcended from the Ports, lords of Baſing, in Hampſhire, in the time of the Conqueror. At the time of the general ſurvey made in that reign, Hugh de Port held fifty-five lordſhips of the king in that county, whereof Baſing became the head of his barony, beſides other manors in Dorſetſhire and Cambridgeſhire. One of his deſcendants William, ſon of Adam de Port, in the reign of king John, aſſumed the name of St. John from his mother Mabell, daughter of Reginald de Aurevalle, by Murielle, daughter and heir of Roger de St. John,[b] who was lineally derived from William de St. John (ſo named from the territory of St. John, near Rouen, in the province of Normandy) who entered England with the Conqueror, anno 1066, and is ſaid to have been ſuperviſor of the waggons and carriages in that expedition; for which reaſon the horſe-hemes (or collar) was borne for his cognizance, and his name occurs in the roll of Battle-abbey, among thoſe who were with the Conqueror, when he obtained the memorable victory near Haſtings.[c]

Of this family was that ancient branch of the St. Johns, ſeated at Stanton St. John, in Oxfordſhire, which it is probable came firſt to poſſeſs the lordſhip of Bletſho about the time of Henry VI.'s reign, Sir Oliver St. John then marrying Margaret, ſiſter and ſole heir of John de Beauchamp, knt. of Bletſho, a junior line of the Beauchamps of Powick, by whom likewiſe Lydiard Tregoze, the antient inheritance of the Beauchamps, came into this family. From the eldeſt of their ſons, Sir John St. John of Bletſho, deſcended the St. Johns, earls of Bolingbroke, now extinct, and the preſent lord St. John of Bletſho. And from Oliver their ſecond ſon, of Lydiard Tre-

[b] Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 463. [c] Coll. Peer. vol. vi. p. 270.

goze, deſcended the preſent lord viſcount Bolingbroke and St. John. He was, anno 2 king Charles I. created lord St. John, baron Tregoze of Highworth, in Wiltſhire; and next year obtained of the king the manners of Batterſea and Wandſworth, in Surry. He died without iſſue, in the 6th of king Charles I. by which the dignity of baron Tregoze became extinct, and John, his nephew, the ſon of his eldeſt brother, Sir John St. John, became heir to this eſtate, as well as to that of Lydiard Tregoze, and was firſt knighted, and then created a baronet, on May 22, 1611, being the 17th in precedency by creation. He was a zealous royaliſt, having three of his ſons killed in the civil wars, fighting for the king. By his firſt wife, Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Leighton of Feckenham, in Worceſterſhire. He had ſeveral children, of whom Oliver, the eldeſt ſon, purchaſed the moiety of Beckenham of Sir Patrick Curwen, and died in the life time of his father, having married Catharine, daughter and coheir of Horatio, lord Vere of Tilbury, by whom he had Sir John St. John, bart. who died before he came of age, unmarried, and was ſucceeded by his uncle, Sir Walter St. John, in the title of Baronet, and in his eſtates at Lydiard Tregoze, Batterſea, and Wandſworth, and in the moiety of this manor of Beckenham and advowſon of the church, of which, having before purchaſed the other moiety, poſſeſſed now the entire fee of them. He died at his ſeat at Batterſea, in 1708, and was interred there,[a] leaving an only ſon Henry, who was on July 2, in the 2d year of king George I. created baron St. John of Batterſea, and viſcount St. John, and died about the 90th year of his age, in 1742, and was ſucceeded in the poſſeſſion of this manor and advowſon by Henry St. John, viſc. Bolingbroke, his only ſon by his firſt wife Mary, ſecond

[a] Stow's Survey. Append. p. 77.

daughter

daughter and coheir of Robert Rich earl of Warwick. By his ſecond wife, Angelica Magdalene, daughter of George Pilleſary, a French officer under Louis XIV. he had three ſons and one daughter;[b] of which ſons John, the ſecond, will be mentioned hereafter, as continuator of the male line; the other two died unmarried.

Henry St. John, the only ſon of the lord viſcount St. John, by his firſt wife, being one of the miniſters of ſtate to queen Anne, and of her privy council, was, in the 11th year of that reign, created Baron St. John of Lydiard Tregoze, in Wiltſhire, and Viſcount Bolingbroke, in Lincolnſhire, with remainder, for want of iſſue male, to Sir Henry St. John, his father, and the heirs male of his body. In 1715, the 2d year of king George I. his honours were forfeited by attainder, but he was reſtored in blood in 1723, and two years afterwards an act paſſed, enabling him and his iſſue to inherit the family eſtate, notwithſtanding his attainder. He died in 1751, in the ſeventy-ninth year of his age, having been twice married; firſt to Frances, daughter and coheir of Sir Francis Windebank, bart. of Berkſhire; and ſecondly to Mary Clara des Champs de Mareſilly, marchioneſs de Vilette, relict of the marquis Vilette, and niece to the celebrated madam de Maintenon, wife to Louis XIV. but having no iſſue by either, his titles and eſtates deſcended to his nephew, Frederick, the third lord viſcount St. John, viz. ſon of John, ſecond and only ſurviving ſon of Henry, viſcount St. John, by his ſecond wife Angelica, before mentioned.

John viſcount St. John, married in 1729, Anne, one of the three daughters and coheirs of Sir Robert Furneſe, bart, of Walderſhare, in this county, and had by her Frederick before mentioned, and Henry,

[b] See Lord Bolingbroke's Life. Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 3559.

now a lieutenant-general in the army, and two daughters.

Frederick, the eldeſt ſon, on his father's death, which happened in France, in 1749, ſucceeded to his titles and eſtates, and upon the death of his uncle, above mentioned, inherited his dignities of viſcount Bolingbroke, and baron of St. John of Lydiard Tregoze; in 1757, he married the lady Diana Spencer, eldeſt ſiſter of George, the preſent duke of Marlborough, (which marriage was diſſolved by act of parliament, anno 8 George III.) by whom he had two ſons, George and Frederick.

Frederick viſcount Bolingbroke, in 1773, paſſed away the manor of Beckenham, and its appurtenances (in which conveyance the advowſon of the church was excepted) an act having paſſed for this purpoſe, by ſale to John Cator, eſq. of this pariſh, who is the preſent owner of it.

FOXGROVE is a manor in this pariſh, which had antiently owners of that ſurname, as appears by the Book of Aid, in the 20th year of king Edward III. in which the heirs of John de Rokeley and John de Foxgrove accounted for it as half a knight's fee. To which family ſucceeded Bartholomew de Burgherſh, a man of great eminency in thoſe times, who poſſeſſed this manor at his deceaſe, in the 29th year of king Edward III. leaving Bartholomew his ſon and heir; Henry, a younger ſon, and one daughter, named Joan.[a] Bartholomew de Burgherſh, the ſon, in the 43d year of the ſame reign, paſſed it away, with much other land in this county, to Sir Walter de Paveley, in whoſe family it remained until the latter end of the reign of king Richard II. and then it was conveyed to Vaux of the county of Northampton,[b] written in old deeds, De Vallibus, an antient family, who bore

[a] Rot. Eſch. ejus an. No. 44. Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 35.
[b] Camb. Brit. p. 1039. Cooke's Bar. MSS.

for

for their arms, *Chequy, argent and azure.* The ſeveral branches of it all bore the *chequy* in their arms, though different. Thus, the lord Vaux of Gilleſland, bore, *A bend chequy, or and gules*; and lord Vaux of Harowdon, bore, *Argent and gules chequy, on a chevron azure three roſes or.* In the name of Vaux this manor remained till the latter end of king Henry VI.'s reign, when it was alienated to John Greene, eſq. in whoſe family it continued till the beginning of king Henry VIII.'s reign, when it was demiſed by ſale to Beverſea; and Humphry Beverſea held it in the 18th year of it. His deſcendant paſſed it away to Luke Hollingworth, who, about the beginning of king Edward VI.'s reign ſold his intereſt in it to Sir John Olyffe, alderman of London,[c] on whoſe death, in 1577, Joane, his only daughter and heir, married to John Leigh, eſq. of Addington, in Surry, entitled her huſband to it; his direct deſcendant, Sir Francis Leigh of Hawley, in this county, on his death in 1711,[d] ordered this manor by his will to be ſold, which was accordingly decreed by the court of chancery, in 1716, and it was then purchaſed by Mr. John Tolſon, from whom it deſcended to Lancelot Tolſon, and from him to Launcelot Tolſon Tilly, and he by his will left his eſtate in this pariſh in three parts; Foxgrove, as will be mentioned below, to Timewell; Stone-farm to Mrs. Tilly; and his woodlands to Mr. Benjamin Browne, which, as well as Stone-farm, have been ſince purchaſed by John Cator, eſq. lord of the manor of Beckenham, and he at preſent poſſeſſes them; but he deviſed this manor of Foxgrove to Timewell for his life, and afterwards to John and Edward Brydges of Wotton, eſquires, in this county, who, about the year 1765, conveyed it by ſale to Jones Raymond, eſq. of Langley,

[c] Philipott, p. 64.
[d] See more of this family of Leigh, under Eaſt Wickham.

in

in this pariſh, on whoſe death, in 1756, it came by deviſe to Amy his ſiſter, widow of Peter Burrell, eſq. late of Beckenham, and William and George Evelyn, eſquires, ſons of William Glanville, eſq. by Bridget, another ſiſter of James Raymond above mentioned; ſoon after which the two latter alienated their intereſts in this manor to Mrs. Amy Burrell, widow of Peter Burrell, eſq. as above mentioned, who, at her death, left it to her ſon, Sir William Burrell, bart. and he ſold it to his nephew, Sir Peter Burrell, knt. and bart. ſince created lord Gwydir, who, in 1792, exchanged it for other lands, in this pariſh, with John Cator, eſq. of Beckenham-place, the preſent poſſeſſor of it.

KELSEYS is a ſeat of note in this pariſh, which as early as the reign of king Henry III. had owners of that name, as appears by deeds written in a character ſeemingly of that time, wherein John de Kelſey, William de Kelſey, and others of that ſurname, are deſcribed as having an intereſt in this ſeat. After this family had deſerted the poſſeſſion of this place, which was in the reign of king Richard II. the Brograves (ſometimes written Boroughgrave) were by purchaſe become owners, and reſided at it.

An anceſtor of this family was Sir Roger Brograve, who lived in the reign of Edward I. and was of Warwickſhire, who bore for his arms, *Argent three lions paſſant guardant gules*; from whom deſcended William Borgrave of Beckenham, to whom, in 1479, licence was granted by the biſhop of Rocheſter (as appears by the records of that church) to erect an oratory, or chapel, at his manor houſe of Kelſeys, the ruins of which are not now even to be traced out.[a]

At length, a deſcendant of this name and family, John Brograve, ſome ſmall time before the year 1688,

[a] Chauncy's Hertf. Viſtn. Co. Kent. 1619 Ped. Brograve.

conveyed

conveyed this eſtate by ſale to Peter Burrell, eſq. who was the ninth ſon of Walter Burrell, eſq. of Holmſtead-houſe, in Cuckfield, in Suſſex, whoſe anceſtors are ſaid to have been originally ſeated in Northumberland as early as the reign of king Edward I. but Randulphus Burrell, ſon and heir of Randulphus, having married Sermonda, daughter and coheir of Sir Walter Woodland of Devonſhire, anno 19 king Edward II. became in her right poſſeſſed of a great eſtate in that county. His direct deſcendant, John Burrell, was a man of eminence in the reign of king Henry V. and left ſeveral ſons, of whom Walter, the eldeſt, ſucceeded him in his eſtates; and Gerardus, the youngeſt, ſettled at Cuckfield, in Suſſex, anno 1446, being vicar of that church, and archdeacon and reſidentiary of Chicheſter. He died in 1508, leaving his eſtate to his nephew, Ralph, who ſettled at Cuckfield. Thomas, his ſon, by Dorothy Weſton, his wife, had Ninian Burrell, eſq. of Cuckfield, who married Jane, daughter of Henry Smith of Surry, afterwards remarried to Peter Courthope, eſq. of Danny, in Suſſex, and died in 1614, leaving ſeveral ſons and daughters.

Of the ſons, Walter, the eldeſt, married Frances, daughter of John Hooper of Stockbury, eſq. in this county, by whom he had nine ſons and three daughters.[b] Of the former, Peter Burrell, eſq. the ninth ſon, purchaſed the manor of Kelſeys, ſome few years before the Revolution, as mentioned above. He afterwards ſettled here, and married Iſabella, the ſecond daughter of John Merrick, eſq. of Eſſex, by whom he had ſix ſons and four daughters. He died in 1718, and was buried in this church, leaving only two of his ſons, Peter and Merrick, and three daughters, ſurviving; of whom, Frances married Richard Wyatt, eſq. of Egham, in Surry; Iſabella married Thomas Dalyſon, eſq. of Hampton, in this county;

[b] Kimb. Bar. vol. iii. p. 23.

and

and Anne married Richard, brother to Sir Hugh Ackland, bart. of Devonſhire.

Merrick Burrell, the youngeſt ſon, was of Weſt Grinſted-park, in Suſſex, and was created a baronet in the 6th year of George III. to him and his heirs male, and in default of ſuch, to his nephew, Peter Burrell, eſq. of Beckenham, ſince deceaſed, and his heirs male. On Sir Merrick Burrell's death, *ſ. p.* the title of baronet deſcended to his great nephew, Sir Peter Burrell, the preſent baronet, ſince created Lord Gwydir, as will be farther mentioned below.

Peter Burrell, eſq. the eldeſt ſon, ſucceeded his father in this eſtate, and reſided at Beckenham. He ſerved the office of high-ſheriff of this county in 1722, and died in 1756. He married Amy, eldeſt daughter of Jones Raymond of Langley, eſq. in this pariſh, by whom he had four ſons and two daughters. Of the former, Peter Burrell, eſq, the eldeſt ſon, ſucceeded him in this eſtate, and was of Beckenham; Raymond, the ſecond ſon, died young; and William, the third, was bred to the civil law, commenced Doctor of Laws, and was chancellor to the biſhops of Worceſter and Rocheſter. He married Sophia, daughter of Charles Raymond of Valentine-houſe, in Eſſex, who was created a baronet in 1774, with remainder, in default of iſſue male, to William Burrell above mentioned, and his heirs male by Sophia his wife, which title, on his death, deſcended to Sir William Burrell, bart. above mentioned, who died in 1796, leaving his widow ſurviving, and by her two ſons and one daughter. Of the two daughters, Amelia married Tobias Frere, eſq. and Iſabella died young. Peter Burrell, eſq. married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John Lewis, eſq. of Hackney, by whom he had one ſon, Peter, and four daughters, of whom Elizabeth-Emelia married Richard Henry Alexander Bennett, eſq. of Cambridgeſhire; Suſanna married lord Algernon Percy, ſecond ſon of the late duke of Northumberland,

Northumberland, now lord Lovaine; Frances Juliana married Hugh earl Percy, now duke of Northumberland; and Elizabeth, the fourth daughter, married Douglas duke of Hamilton. He died poſſeſſed of Kelſeys, in 1775, being ſucceeded in it by his only ſon and heir, Peter Burrell, eſq. of Beckenham, who was afterwards knighted; and at length, on the death of Sir Merrick Burrell, bart. ſucceeded to that title by the limitation of the patent. He married in 1779, the lady Elizabeth Priſcilla Bertie, eldeſt ſiſter of Robert late duke of Ancaſter. on whoſe death, *ſ. p.* ſhe ſucceeded to the title of Baroneſs Willoughby of Ereſby, and in her own right and perſon to the office of Lord Great Chamberlain of England, the office being executed by her huſband Sir Peter Burrell, knt. and bart. who was, in May 1796, created Lord Gwydir of Gwydir, in Carnarvonſhire. By her he has a ſon, Peter Robert, born in 1782, and other children, and is the preſent poſſeſſor of this eſtate. He bears for his arms, *Vert three plain ſhields argent, each having a bordure ingrailed or.*

LANGLEY-PARK is a ſeat of eminent account in this pariſh, which was formerly accounted a manor, and in the reign of the Conqueror was part of the vaſt eſtate of Odo, biſhop of Baieux, and earl of Kent; and is thus, if I miſtake not, deſcribed in the general ſurvey of Domeſday taken in that reign:

*Goisfridus de Ros holds of the biſhop (of Baieux) Laſela. It was taxed at 7 ſhillings. The arable land is ..... In demeſne there are 3 carucates, and 31 villeins, with 14 borderers having 16 carucates. There are 10 ſervants, and one fiſhery producing fourſcore and 10 eels; wood for the pannage of 55 hogs. The whole manor was worth, in the time of king Edward the Confeſſor, 30 pounds, when he received it 16 pounds, and now 24 pounds, what Goisfridus held; what Richard of Tonbridge held in his lowy was rated at 6 pounds;*

*pounds; what the king held of this manor,* 22 *ſhillings. Brixi Cilt held it of king Edward.*

This place afterwards came into the poſſeſſion of the family of Malmaines, who were ſettled at Walderſhare in this county, in the time of the Conqueror. John de Malmaines obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands in Begenham, in the 12th year of king Edward II. which was renewed to Henry Malmaines, of Cliffe, in the 3d year of king Edward III.[a]

It appears by the Book of Aid, in the 20th year of king Edward III. that Nicholas Malmains held half a knight's fee of the king in Begenham. He died, in the 23d year of that reign, poſſeſſed of much land in this county;[b] before the end of which, the property of this manor was transferred by ſale to Langley, a name moſt probably taken from this place, though the family itſelf has been long ſince extinct. Theſe Langleys of Beckingham were, moſt probably, a diſtinct family from thoſe of Knowlton in this county, who were originally deſcended from a family of that name in the county of Warwick.

The laſt of this name here was Ralph Langley, who died in the 30th year of king Henry VI. and by his will directed Langley, with the reſt of his demeſnes in Beckenham, to be ſold for diſcharging his debts; in purſuance of which it was paſſed away by ſale to John Violett, who bore for his arms, *Gules, three coronets, or,* whoſe deſcendants enjoyed it until the beginning of the reign of king Henry VIII. when it was conveyed to John Stile, alderman of London.[c]

He was the ſon of William Style of Ipſwich, was afterwards knighted, and of the Drapers company, and dying in 1500, was buried in Allhallows Barking church, London. He married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Guy Wolſton of London, by whom he had Sir Hum-

[a] Philipott, p. 63. [b] Rot. Eſch. No. 160.
[c] Philipott, p. 64.

phrey

phrey Style, of Langley, who was one of the eſquires of the body to king Henry VIII. and ſheriff of this county in the 35th year of the ſame reign. He died in 1557, and was buried in Beckenham church. He procured a grant from Sir Thomas Wriotheſley, garter principal king at arms, reciting, that not being willing to bear arms in prejudice to the other branches of his family, he had petitioned for a coat, with a proper difference, which the ſaid king at arms, in 1529, granted, under his hand and ſeal, viz. *Sable, a feſs engrailed between three fleurs de lis, within a bordure or, the feſs frètted of the field.*

He procured, with others, an act of parliament in the 2d and 3d years of king Edward VI. for the *diſgavelling* of his lands in this county.[d]

By his firſt wife, Bridget, daughter of Sir Thomas Baldrey, he had three ſons; Edmund, born at Langley, in 1538; Oliver, who was ſheriff of London, and anceſtor of the Styles, of Watringbury, barts. and Nicholas, who was knighted.

From Edmund Style of Langley, eſq. before-mentioned, eldeſt ſon of Sir Humphrey, deſcended Sir Humphry Style of Langley, eldeſt ſon of William, who was gentleman of the privy-chamber to king James, and cupbearer to king Charles I. and was created a baronet, by privy-ſeal, on the 20th of May, 1627.[e] But though this branch was the elder to thoſe of Watringbury, yet theſe laſt were the ſenior baronets, being created April 21, 1627, anno 3 Charles I. He died in 1650, and was buried in the vault at Beckenham church, and leaving no iſſue, his title became extinct, and he was ſucceeded in this eſtate at Langley by his half-brother, William, the eldeſt ſon of William

[d] The ſeveral charities of theſe Styles to the city of London may be ſeen in Stry pe's Stow's Surveys, book i. p. 268, 272; book ii. p. 40, 81, 168; book iii. p. 32; book v. p. 57.

[e] Rym. Fœd. vol. xviii. p. 986.

Style

Style by his ſecond wife, Mary, daughter of Sir Robert Clarke, one of the barons of the exchequer.

This William Style of Langley, eſq. was bred a barriſter at law, and was of the ſociety of the Inner Temple. He married Elizabeth, ſole daughter and heir of William Duleing, by whom he had two ſons, and two daughters, and dying in 1679, was buried in this church.

Of the ſons, the ſecond, but only ſurviving ſon Humphry, ſucceeded his father at Langley, in whoſe time there were ſeveral coats of arms, as well of this family as of thoſe they had intermarried with, painted in the windows of this houſe, but dying without iſſue male, his only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to ſir John Elwill, bart.[a] who died in 1727, without iſſue by her. This family of Elwill was of Exeter in Devonſhire, who bore for their arms, *Ermine on a chevron engrailed, between three eagles diſplayed gules, three annulets or*, and were advanced to the dignity of a baronet, in the perſon of Sir John Elwill, in the 8th year of queen Anne's reign. He was twice married, but left iſſue only, by his ſecond wife, the daughter and heir of —— Leigh of Egham, in Surry, by whom he had two ſons, Sir John above-mentioned, and Edmund, who ſucceeded his brother in title and in this eſtate of Langley, and in 1732 transferred his property in it, together with the houſe, called Langley-houſe, the park, and alſo the north and ſouth iſles of the pariſh church of Beckenham, to Hugh Raymond of Great Saling, in Eſſex, eſq. who ſettled them on his only ſon, Jones Raymond, eſq. in tail general; remainder to his eldeſt daughter, Amy, who married Peter Burrell, eſq. and her iſſue male. On his death his ſon, Jones Raymond, eſq ſucceeded to this eſtate, and kept his ſhrievalty for this county at Langley in 1738, in which year he died, and was ſucceeded by his ſon, of the ſame

[a] See Kimber's Bar. vol. i. p. 80.

name

name, who died unmarried in 1768, on which it deſcended, by the intail before-mentioned, to his ſiſter, Amy, before mentioned, whoſe huſband, Peter Burrell, eſq. in her right, became poſſeſſed of it. He died in 1756, having had by her, who ſurvived him, four ſons and two daughters. Mrs. Burrell, his widow, afterwards reſided here, and died in 1794, on which this ſeat deſcended, together with her other eſtates in this pariſh, to her grandſon, ſir Peter Burrell, bart. ſince created lord Gwydir, of whom a full account has already been given, and he is the preſent poſſeſſor of this ſeat, with the park and grounds belonging to it.

KENT-HOUSE is ſituated on the very edge of this county, towards Surry, and ſeems to be ſo called either from its having been once the outer bounds of this county, or from having been formerly the firſt houſe on the entrance into this pariſh within this county, from that of Surry. It was for ſome generations in the poſſeſſion of the family of Lethieullier; the firſt of whom was Sir John Le Thieullier a Hamburgh merchant, who had raiſed himſelf by his induſtry in trade, and ſettled in this pariſh. He deviſed it at his death to his ſon, William Lethieullier, of this pariſh, eſq. who by his will gave it, with his manſion and other eſtates in Beckenham, to his ſecond ſon, Manning Lethieullier, eſq. whoſe ſon, John Greene Lethieullier, eſq. alienated it, in 1776, to Thomas Lucas, of Lee, in this county, eſq. who died poſſeſſed of it in 1784, leaving his widow ſurviving, who re-marrying John Julius Angerſtein, of Charlton, eſq. he is, in her right, at this time poſſeſſed of it.

## *CHARITIES.*

At the ſouth-eaſt corner of the church-yard of Beckenham, three ſmall alms-houſes were erected by ANTHONY RAWLINS, eſq. in 1694, for the uſe of the poor of this pariſh.

EDWARD STYLE and NICHOLAS STYLE, eſqrs. and SIR HUMPHREY STYLE, bart. in 1694 gave 60l. for two ſermons to be preached yearly, 13s. 4d. each; the reſidue for bread to be

diſtributed weekly to the poor; which money was afterwards laid out in land, veſted in truſtees, and of the annual produce of 5l. 15s.

—— STYLE, of Langley, gave to this pariſh land in it of the annual produce of 2l.

A perſon unknown gave land to this pariſh of the annual produce of 3l.

Another perſon unknown gave land to it of the annual produce of 10s.

Captain LEONARD BOWER gave, for teaching poor children to read, a bond, which was ſold in 1732, for which it received the annual produce of 4l.

This pariſh is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* of Rocheſter and *deanry* of Dartford.

The church, which ſtands on a riſing ground, a little to the eaſtward of the village of Beckenham, is dedicated to St. George, and may be conjectured to have been built about the reign of king Edward III. from its being dedicated to that ſaint; few of our churches being dedicated to him before that reign. In this church there are many coats of arms carved, and painted hatchments and penons, belonging to the family of Style, of Langley. It antiently conſiſted but of one iſle, till it was increaſed by the addition of a large chapel or iſle on each ſide, both which were built by Oliver Style, of Wateringbury, eſq. Under the ſouth iſle he built a vault for the ſole uſe of Langley-houſe, and the family there, though he himſelf was buried at Wateringbury. It is a neat building, having a handſome ſpire ſteeple at the weſt end of it, covered with ſhingles, in which is a ring of five tuneable bells. But on Thurſday morning, December 23, 1790, a great ſtorm of thunder and lightning deſtroyed the ſpire of it, and the greateſt part of the church by fire; it has been ſince repaired, and reſtored to its former ſtate.

In this church, among others, are the following monuments and memorials:—*In the chancel*, a braſs plate and inſcription, for William Danyell, alias Malham, rector

rector, obt. June 24, 1458. A memorial for Elizabeth, wife of John Chriſtmas, one of whoſe daughters, Joan, wife of John Storer, miniſter here, obt. 1653, one for Richard Hale, and Sarah his wife, he died 1678. Another for Elizabeth, daughter of William Skinner, LL. D. chancellor of Hereford, and vicar of this church, obt. 1642, æt. 18. On braſs plates ſeveral coats of arms, and the figure of a woman, for dame Margaret, the wife of Sir William Damſell, obt. 1563, and for Elee, alias Ellen Berney, her ſiſter, both daughters of John Berney, of Redham, in Norfolk, eſq. by his firſt wife Margaret, daughter of Reade, obt. 1609. On the north wall a monument for Benjamin Burdett, merchant, obt. 1710. On the north wall are ſeveral braſs plates of arms, and the effigies of a man, two women, and eleven children, (viz. nine to the firſt, and two to the ſecond), and an inſcription for Sir Humphry Style, and dame Bridget, his firſt wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Bauldry, ſometime mayor of London; he left ſurviving his ſecond wife, Elizabeth, daughter of George Peryn, eſq. he died in 1557, and the ſaid Bridget in 1548. In the nave, on the eaſt wall, a monument for Peter Burrell, eſq. obt. 1718, æt. 69. *In the ſouth chancel*, on the weſt wall, a monument and inſcription, ſhewing, that in a vault near it is buried William Style, of Langley, eſq. counſellor at law, and of the Inner Temple, obt. 1679, æt. 88. A monument near the former, ſhewing that in the ſame vault, appropriated to that family, lies Sir Humphry Style, owner of Langley, in this pariſh, knight and bart. of England and Ireland, obt. 1659, æt. 64. Another for Thomas Style, LL.D. obt. 1677. On the ſouth wall a monument for Oliver Style, of London, eſq. ſometime ſheriff thereof, ſecond ſon of Sir Humphry Style, of Langley, who lies buried at Wateringbury, at his proper coſts and charges built this iſle, and the vault therein, for the ſole uſe of the Langley houſe and family. On the walls of this iſle are ſeveral coats

of arms of the Style family, their matches and quarterings, as there are on the weſt wall of the north iſle; on the north wall of which is an inſcription for Oliver Style, of London, eſq. above-mentioned.

It ſeems always to have paſſed as an appendage to the manor of Beckenham, till Frederick, viſcount Bolingbroke, in 1773, alienated the manor to John Cator, eſq. reſerving the patronage of this church to himſelf. He died in 1787, and his ſon, George viſcount Bolingbroke, ſold it to the reverend William Roſe, who is the preſent owner of it.

In the fifteenth year of king Edward I. it was valued at twenty-five marcs.[a]

It is valued in the king's books at 16l. 18s. 9d. and the yearly tenths at 1l. 13s. 10½d.[b]

By virtue of a *commiſſion of enquiry* into the value of church livings, in 1650, iſſuing out of Chancery, it was returned, that Beckenham was a parſonage, with an houſe and forty acres of glebe land, worth thirty pounds per annum, and that the profit of the other tythes was worth one hundred and ten pounds per annum; maſter John Storer, enjoying the ſame, being put in by the parliament.[c]

In the reign of queen Anne ſeveral queries were ſent by the archbiſhop of Canterbury, to every incumbent, concerning the ſtate of their livings, and the revenues of them: when William Aſheton, B. D. then rector of this pariſh, returned, among other matters, that this church was endowed with all ſorts of tythes; but that there had been no augmentation, or benefaction whatſoever, made to it.

The preſent rector, Mr. Roſe, has new built the parſonage-houſe on a large ſcale, and in a very handſome manner.

[a] Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456. [b] Bacon's Lib. Regis.
[c] Parl. Surveys, Lamb. libr. vol. xix.

CHURCH

## CHURCH OF BECKENHAM.

PATRONS,
*Or by whom presented.*

*Lords of the Manor of Beckenham*

RECTORS.

*John Matham*, in the reign of king Henry I.

*William de Knapton*, anno 22d Edward I.[d]

*John Bush*, anno 35 king Edward I. 1306.[e]

*William Danyell*, alias *Malham*, obt. June 24, 1458.[f]

*Henry Sherelocke*, clerk, buried May 3, 1541.

*Peter Racwiche*, buried Dec. 16, 1545.

*Nicholas Rokewood*, 1551.

*Robert Coozine*, alias *Cuyshen*, 1552.

*John Smith*, buried Sept. 15, 1557.

*Hugh Tayler*, buried Oct. 16, 1560.

*Hugh Calverley*, buried July 4, 1576.[g]

*Peter Punter.*

*William Skinner*, LL. D. 1628, obt. 1644.[h]

*John Storer*, in 1650.[i]

*Roger Clifold*, in 1659, obt. Aug. 15, 1676.

*William Asheton*, D. D. 1676, obt. Sept. 9, 1711.[k]

—— *Holland*, D. D. obt. Dec. 30, 1730.

[d] Prynne, p. 394.

[e] In the 25th year of king Edward I. master John Bush, parson of the church of Beghkinghum, had a grant of *free-warren* in all his demesne lands for the term of his natural life. Rot. Cart. ejus an. No. 28.

[f] He lies buried in the chancel of this church.

[g] He was archdeacon of Rochester. See Wood's Ath. Oxon. Fasti, vol. i. p. 82.

[h] Chancellor of Hereford. Reg. Roff. p. 815. Wood's Ath. Ox. vol. i. Fasti, p. 205, 232.

[i] He was put in by the Parliament.

[k] His life was written by Mr. Watts, vicar of Orpington. He was prebendary of Knaresborough cum Bickhill in York cathedral. See Willis on Cath. vol. i. p. 147. He died in the 70th year of his age, and was buried in the chancel of this church.—See Biog. Brit. vol. i. p. 238.

| PATRONS, &c. | RECTORS. |
| --- | --- |
| *Lords of the manor of Beckenham..* | *Thomas Clerk*, 1731. |
| *Frederick viſcount Bolingbroke ....* | *William Fraigneau*, A. M. 1765.[a] |
| | *William Roſe*, A. M. 1778, the preſent Rector.[b] |

[a] In 1765 a diſpenſation paſſed for his holding this rectory with the vicarage of Batterſea in Surry. He was formerly Greek profeſſor in the univerſity of Cambridge.

[b] In October 1778, a diſpenſation paſſed for his holding the vicarage of Carſhalton, with this rectory.

## BROMLEY

IS the other pariſh in this hundred, lying the next eaſtward from Beckenham. It was antiently written in Saxon *Bromleag*, and *Bromleah*, in Latin *Bromlega*; which ſignifies *a field* or *paſture*, where broom grows.

The pariſh is of a large circumference, being near four miles in length. The lands in it are in general very thin and poor, the ſoil being much inclined to gravel. The river Ravenſbourne directs its courſe northward along the weſtern part of it; about a quarter of a mile eaſtward of it ſtands the town of Bromley, having the church on the weſt ſide of it. It is built on each ſide of the high road leading from London, through it to Farnborough, and thence to Sevenoke, paſſing over Maſon's, alias Gravel-hill, near the entrance to Bromley-common, the extremity of which and Southborough are the ſouthern boundaries of this pariſh. Between the river and the ſouth end of the town is Simpſon's-place, and about a quarter of a mile on the oppoſite ſide of it, the biſhop's palace. Towards the north eaſt the pariſh ſtretches a long way among the woods, which extend along this whole ſide of it; cloſe to

to them ſtands the ſeat of Sundridge, now called Waſhers in the Woods, from its ſituation among them. There are ſeveral hamlets in this pariſh, among which thoſe of Plaiſtow and Widmore are the two principal ones, in which are ſeveral genteel houſes; in the latter is an elegant manſion called Bickley, which was erected about fourteen years ago, by John Wells, of Deptford, eſq. who left it at his death to his brother William Wells, eſq. who now reſides here, and another ſince built by John Harriſon, eſq. called Shawfield, in which he now reſides.

Bromley is a populous well-built town; the buildings of which are continually increaſing. Its ſituation is pleaſant and healthy, and among its inhabitants there are many opulent gentlemen's families, which, together with the college, ſituated at the north end of it, the biſhop of Rocheſter's reſidence near it, and its well frequented market, ſupport it in a moſt flouriſhing condition.

The market, as will be further mentioned below, was granted to the biſhop of Rocheſter in the 25th and 26th years of king Henry VI. to be held weekly within his manor of Bromley. It is now much reſorted to for the ſale of corn, live cattle, and every kind of proviſions. At the ſame time were granted two fairs, one on the feaſt of St. James the apoſtle, in the village of Bromley, now kept on the 5th of Auguſt, and the other on the day of St. Blaze, the 3d, now the 14th of February.

There is a *well* in the biſhop's grounds, near his garden, called St. Blaze's well, which, having great reſort to it antiently, on account of its medicinal virtues, had an oratory annexed to it, dedicated to that ſaint. It was particularly frequented at Whitſuntide, on account of a remiſſion of forty days injoined penance, to ſuch as ſhould viſit this chapel, and offer up their oriſons in it, on the three holy days of Pentecoſt.

This oratory falling to ruin at the reformation, the well too came to be diſuſed, and the ſcite of both in proceſs of time, became totally forgotten, and continued ſo till the well was again diſcovered in the year 1754, by means of a yellow ochrey ſediment remaining in the tract of a ſmall current, leading from this ſpring to the corner of the moat, with the waters of which it uſed to mix. In digging round the well, there were found the remains of the old ſteps leading down to it, made of oak-plank, which appeared to have lain under ground a great many years.

The water of this ſpring is chalybeat, and riſes at the foot of a declivity, at a ſmall diſtance eaſtward from the biſhop's palace. The ſoil, through which it paſſes is gravel, and it iſſues immediately from a bed of pure white ſand. The courſe of the ſpring ſeems to be about north-north-eaſt and ſouth-ſouth-weſt, from its aperture; its opening is towards the latter, and as Shooters-hill bears about north-north-eaſt from its aperture, it probably comes from thence. The water of this ſpring being thus found to be a good chalybeat, was, by the biſhop's orders, immediately ſecured from the mixture of other waters, and incloſed, in hopes it might prove beneficial to ſuch as ſhould drink it. Since which numbers of people, eſpecially of the middling and poorer ſort, have been remarkably relieved by it, from various infirmities and diſeaſes, which were not only afflicting, but ſome of them dangerous.

Between Bromley and Eltham there grows *Bupleurum anguſtifolium monſpelienſe*; *the narrow-leaved hares ear.*[a]

Ethelbert, king of Kent, gave to biſhop Eardulph and the church of Rocheſter, land in Bromley, containing ſix ſulings.[b]

[a] Merrett's Pinax, p. 17.

[b] Apograph. Dering Library.

King

King Edgar, in the ninth year of his reign, anno 967,[c] granted to St. Andrew, and the church of Rocheſter, certain land at the place, commonly known by the name of *Æt Bromleage*, containing ten hides, called by the Kentiſhmen, *ſulings*, with all liberties and emoluments whatſoever; excepting the repelling invaſions, and the repairing of bridges and fortifications, which privileges were granted on account of the great price, which biſhop Alfſtan had paid for this land; being no leſs than eighty marcs of the pureſt gold, and ſix pounds of fine ſilver, and thirty marcs of gold beſides to the king's *præfect*.

At the end of this grant is a liſt of the ſeveral woods or denberries in Andredreſwald, or the Weald, the commodity of which belonged to this land of Bromley. Part of this land might probably be the ſame which was given before by king Ethelbert; for in the donations of the Saxon kings, the ſame manors and eſtates are frequently recorded as having been given by different kings, which happened by their diſſentions and contentions with each other, with various ſucceſs, and one while taking away the poſſeſſions of the church, and another while regranting them again. Beſides, it is to be obſerved, that when different kings have given ſmall parcels of land in the ſame pariſh or manor, as appears by many inſtances in the Saxon codicils, they have been ſaid to have given the whole of ſuch pariſh or manor, inſtead of ſuch ſmall part of it.[d]

King Ethelred, ſon of Edgar, on ſome diſpute with the biſhop of Rocheſter, laid waſte the lands belonging to his ſee, and in 987 gave to his miniſter, Æthelſine, (by whoſe advice he had taken ſeveral eſtates from it) ten plow lands at Bromley.

[c] The date of this charter in the Textus Roffenſis is miſprinted, viz. in the 9th year of king Edgar, anno 955; for that king did not begin his reign till 959; and Dunſtan, who, as one of the witneſſes, ſigns himſelf archbiſhop of Canterbury, did not come to that ſee till the year 960.

[d] Reg. Roff. p. 5.

But

But afterwards, he, with much contrition, in 998, in the preſence of the convent of Rocheſter, and his principal nobility, declared what he had done was by the advice of this Æthelſine; and then reſtored to the church ſix plow lands here, together with the privilege of the woods in the Weald, &c.[a]

At that time the Weald acknowledged no private lord or proprietor, but belonged wholly to the king; ſo that on the royal donation of a parcel of land out of the Weald to any perſon, in the nature of what is ſince called a manor or lordſhip, it was the uſual cuſtom, in order to render it the more complete, to accommodate it with an additional grant in the deed, of a common of pannage, or liberty of feeding and keeping hogs in the Weald, not at large, but with a reſtriction to a particular part of it. And there is ſcarce any ſuch antient grant to the churches of Canterbury and Rocheſter, or St. Auſtin's monaſtery, in their regiſters, of any conſiderable portion of land out of the Weald, without this additional liberty.[b]

One Birtrick, a Saxon nobleman, and Elſwithe, his wife, of Meopham, in this county, bequeathed by their teſtament, made in the time of Alfſtan, biſhop of Rocheſter, who died in 984, their land at Bromley, after Britware's life, to St. Andrew's priory in Rocheſter, as Elfric their lord had bequeathed it for him and his anceſtors.[c]

After the conqueſt, Odo, the great biſhop of Baieux, the king's half brother, ſeized on the poſſeſſions of the church of Rocheſter at Bromley, among many other eſtates belonging to it; but archbiſhop Lanfranc did not ſuffer him to keep them long, for he recovered them, in the ſolemn aſſembly of the whole county, held on this occaſion, by the king's command, at Pinenden-heath, in 1076, and afterwards reſtored them

[a] Text. Roff. p. 130. [b] Somn. Roman Ports, p. 108.
[c] Reg. Roff. p. 442.

to

to biſhop Gundulph, and the church of St. Andrew;[d] which donation was confirmed by archbiſhop Anſelm, and ſeveral of his ſucceſſors.[e] In the reign of king Edward the Confeſſor Bromley continued to be eſtimated at ſix ſulings. Whether the whole of them came into the hands of the biſhop of Baieux, I do not find; but it is certain only three of them returned after the above abjudication to the church of Rocheſter.

Accordingly this eſtate is thus entered, under the general title of the biſhop of Rocheſter's lands, in the ſurvey of Domeſday, taken in the year 1080.

*In Bronlei hundred the ſame biſhop (of Rocheſter) holds Bronlei. It was taxed at ſix ſulings in the time of king Edward the Confeſſor, and now at three. The arable land is* 13 *carucates. In demeſne there are two carucates, and* 30 *villeins, with* 26 *borderers, having* 11 *carucates. There is one mill of four ſhillings, and two acres of meadow. Wood for the pannage of* 100 *hogs. In the time of king Edward the Confeſſor, and afterwards, it was worth* 12 *pounds and* 10 *ſhillings, now* 18 *pounds, and yet it yields* 21 *pounds, all but two ſhillings.*

Biſhop Gundulph, moſt probably ſoon after this, erected a manſion or palace here, for himſelf and his ſucceſſors, which ſeems to have been but a mean and inconvenient habitation; at leaſt it was in the time of biſhop Gualeranus, who died in 1184, become ſo ruinous, that his ſucceſſor, biſhop Gilbert de Glanvill, found it neceſſary to rebuild it in a more commodious manner.

On a taxation of the biſhop of Rocheſter's manors, anno 40 king Henry III. it was returned that Bromley was worth, as it was then let to farm, in annual rent, twenty-three pounds, that the buildings could not be ſuſtained, but from the rent, becauſe the arable lands

[d] Reg. Roff. p. 442. [e] Ibid. p. 442, et ſeq.

did

did not repay the neceſſary expences laid out annually about them; and that the buildings required the expence of ſixty ſhillings yearly. There is an account in a manuſcript in the Cotton-library, of the ſtock and houſehold furniture which ought to remain on the ſeveral manors of this biſhopric, after the deceaſe of each biſhop, and among others of this of Bromleghe, but that the latter on this, as well as thoſe on the other manors belonging to the biſhop, being in the cuſtody of the archbiſhop, during the vacancy of the ſee, were uſually deſtroyed or loſt; but now, continues the manuſcript, by the long vacancies of this ſee, and the reſervations of that of Rome, they will be all made away with, and not only this, but the buildings themſelves too will probably run to ruin, the temporals will be diminiſhed, and the woods will be deſtroyed.

In the 21ſt year of king Edward I. Thomas de Woldham, biſhop of Rocheſter, claimed certain liberberties, viz. the return of the king's writs, aſſize of bread and ale, view of frank-pledge, and pleas of *withernam*, in his manor of Bromley, as well of his own tenants, as thoſe of the parſon of that pariſh; and he complained, that Abel de St. Martin, parſon of Bromley, cauſed, in like manner, amerciaments to be levied of the tenants of his church, when it happened they were amerced at the biſhop's view of Bromley for breaking the aſſize. Notwithſtanding which, the biſhop cauſing the ſame to be levied by his bailiffs too, the tenants were twice puniſhed for the ſame default; whereupon the jury found upon oath, that the biſhop had a right to thoſe liberties, and that he found his church poſſeſſed of them upon his coming to it. Upon which the parſon ſubmitted, and was fined half a marc,[a] &c.

The ſame year the biſhop of Rocheſter was ſummoned to anſwer the king in a plea of *Quo warranto*,

[a] Reg. Roff. p. 11, 61, 64, 65, 89, 132.

why

why he claimed to hold pleas of *withernam*, and to have return of the king's writs, aſſize of bread and ale, and view of frank-pledge, in his manor of Bromley; and the biſhop appeared and claimed the above liberties in this manor; and as to the return of writs, &c. he ſaid, that the manor was within the precinct of the liberty of the archbiſhop, and that the bailiffs of the biſhop received ſuch return by the hands of the archbiſhop's bailiffs; therefore he prayed judgment, &c. And as to the other liberties, the biſhop ſaid, that he and his predeceſſors, beyond the time of memory, had them in this manor, and uſed them without interruption: on which the jurors found for the biſhop, &c. And the record of theſe pleas was, at the requeſt of John de Shepey, biſhop of Rocheſter, exemplified by *inſpeximus*, under the great ſeal, in the 30th year of king Edward III.

Anno 14 king Edward II. biſhop Hamo de Heth was neceſſitated to ſell the wood of Elmſted in Bromleigh, which he did for two hundred marcs, to pay the debts which his church had incurred, in ſoliciting the affairs of it at the court of Rome. In the 25th and 26th years of king Henry VI. the biſhop of Rocheſter had a moſt ample confirmation of all former charters and liberties, and a grant of a market in his manor of Bromley, on a Thurſday weekly, and one fair in the village here, on the feaſt of St. James the apoſtle, and another within this manor, on the day of St. Blaze.[b]

In the great rebellion the parliament paſſed an ordinance, in 1646, for the aboliſhing archbiſhops, and biſhops, &c. and for ſettling their lands and poſſeſſions in truſtees, to be diſpoſed of according to the appointment of both houſes; and another for the ſale of them, to ſatisfy the debts due from the ſtate upon the public faith. In conſequence of which the manor of Bromley, with its appurtenances, as part of the poſſeſſions of the

[b] Reg. Roff. p. 662. Ang. Sac. p. 361. Rot. Cart.

biſhopric

biſhoprick of Rocheſter, was ſold in 1648, to Auguſtine Skinner, for 5665l. 11s. 11d.* in which ſituation it remained till the reſtoration of king Charles II. in 1660, when it returned again, with the palace, to its right and lawful owner, in the perſon of Dr. John Warner, biſhop of Rocheſter; in whoſe ſucceſſors they have both continued ever ſince; being now in the poſſeſſion of the right reverend the lord biſhop of this dioceſe.

The palace, which is moſt pleaſantly ſituated, is at preſent the only one belonging to the ſee of Rocheſter, which, as the biſhops have conſtantly reſided at it ſince the reformation, had many additions made to it from time to time. But among its late benefactors we may reckon biſhop Sprat, who pulled down and rebuilt the chapel, and much improved the grounds about it, and biſhop Atterbury, who made ſome expenſive additions to it.

But the greateſt benefactor to it was biſhop Wilcox, whoſe reparations of the buildings, and improvements of the gardens and grounds about the houſe, were executed with no ſmall coſt and elegance. After which it remained with little alteration till the late biſhop Thomas, on his promotion to this ſee in 1774, finding the houſe much dilapidated, pulled the whole of it down, and erected a ſmall neat brick edifice on the ſcite of the old palace, which was completed in 1776, and was afterwards made uſe of by him, as it is now by his ſucceſſor, for his epiſcopal ſummer reſidence.

In the 4th year of king George III. an act paſſed for extinguiſhing the right of common upon certain commonable lands and grounds within the manor and pariſh of Bromley.

Roger Forde, abbot of Glaſtonbury, a man of great learning and eloquence, was killed at this palace, in the time of biſhop Laurence de St. Martin, on a journey,

* Hiſt. of Rocheſter, 1723, p. 119.

which

which he undertook to defend the rights of his church, anno 1261.

SUNDRIDGE is a manor and ſeat, ſituated towards the north-eaſt corner of this pariſh, among the woods, and was formerly the reſidence of a noted family of the name of Blund, or Blound, who were antiently lords of Guines in France. One of them had three ſons, who came into England with William the Conqueror; of theſe, one returned into France again, and the other two, Sir Robert and Sir William, remained in England, the former ſettling in Suffolk, and the latter in Lincolnſhire. From theſe the ſeveral families of Blount in this kingdom are deſcended. Of a younger branch of them was Peter le Blund, who was owner of this place in the reign of king Henry III. in the 39th year of which he was made conſtable of the tower of London.[b] His deſcendant, Edward de Blund, was poſſeſſed of Sundridge, in the 20th year of king Edward III. as appears by the book of aid made that year; in which Edward de Blund was aſſeſſed for one quarter of a knight's fee, which John de Blund before held in Bromleigh of the biſhop of Rocheſter. Soon after which this family ended in a female heir, who carried this ſeat in marriage to Willoughby; from which name, after ſome years, it paſſed, by purchaſe, to Booth, whoſe deſcendant, William Booth, was found by inquiſition, taken in the 1ſt year of king Henry VII. to die poſſeſſed of the manor of Sundrigg, held of the biſhop of Rocheſter, as of his palace of Rocheſter, by knights ſervice, and by the ſervice of making ſuit at the court of the palace, and that Robert Booth was his ſon and heir;[c] who was, with one hundred other gentlemen of this county, made knights of the Bath, in the 17th year of that reign. In whoſe deſcendants Sundridge continued till Sith Booth, eſq. dying without

[b] Bar. vol. ii. p. 367. Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 518, 519.
[c] Rot. Eſch. ejus anni.

male

male iſſue, one of his daughters and coheirs carried it in marriage to Thomas Bettenham, of Shurland, in Pluckley, eſq. whoſe great-grandſon, Stephen Bettenham, of Bromley, gent.[a] gave it in marriage with his daughter Anne, to Robert Pynſent, third ſon of John Pynſent, of Chudleigh, in Devonſhire, and prothonotary of the court of common-pleas, who bore for his arms, *Gules, a chevron ingrailed between three mullets argent.* He died here in 1679, without iſſue, and was buried in the chancel of this church. He was ſucceeded in the poſſeſſion of this ſeat and eſtate by Thomas Waſher, of Lincoln's-Inn, eſq. formerly of Lyneham, in Devonſhire, whoſe arms were, *Barruly argent and gules, over all a lion rampant ſable, crowned or*;[b] on whoſe death in 1720, it came to his ſon, John Waſher, of Lincoln's-Inn, eſq. who dying in 1749, without male iſſue, his only daughter and heir carried it in marriage to William Wilſon, eſq. ſheriff of this county in 1766. He died poſſeſſed of it in 1776, leaving three ſons and two daughters, of whom the eldeſt ſon, William Wilſon, eſq. alienated it to Edward George Lind, eſq. who is the preſent owner of this ſeat and manor, and now reſides at it. From the family before mentioned, and its ſituation amongſt the woods, this ſeat acquired the name of Waſher's in the Woods; by which, I believe, it is generally known among the common people at preſent.

Simpsons is an eſtate in this pariſh, which was formerly of much greater account than it is at preſent. It was antiently owned by the Bankwells, a family of good repute,[c] who reſided at Lee in this neighbourhood, as has been already taken notice of. In the 31ſt year of king Edward I. John de Banquel was poſſeſſed of this eſtate, and had that year a grant for *free-warren* in all his lands in Bromley, Lee, &c. to him, Cicele his wife,

[a] Coll. Baronetage, vol. v. p. 17.
[b] See Guillim's Heraldry, p. 403.
[c] Philipott, p. 84.

and

and their heirs. William de Banquel died poſſeſſed of it in the 20th year of king Edward III. and left Thomas Banquel his heir, who paid aid for it that year, as the ſixth part of a knight's fee in Bromley, which John de Bankwell before held there of the biſhop of Rocheſter. He died, in the 35th year of that reign, poſſeſſed of much land here, and in this neighbourhood, and left three ſons, John, William, and Robert Bankwell, who became his heirs in gavelkind, and on the diviſion of their inheritance, William, the ſecond ſon, became entitled to his father's eſtate in Bromley.

After this family was extinct here it came next into the poſſeſſion of the Clarks; one of whom, William Clark, in the reign of king Henry V. having obtained the king's licence, erected a ſtrong, but ſmall building here, of ſtone, with an embattled wall, and encircled it with a deep moat. His poſterity did not continue long in the poſſeſſion of it; for about the latter end of the next reign of king Henry VI. John Simpſon reſided here, by right of purchaſe, and having much improved the manſion, it adopted his name, by which it has been called ever ſince.[d]

In the 11th year of king Edward IV. Robert Simpſon died poſſeſſed of this ſeat;[e] his deſcendant, Nicholas Sympſon, the king's barber, alienated Sympſons to Alexander Baſſet, who, in the reign of king VIII. conveyed it by ſale to Sir Humphrey Style, of Langley, ſon of John Style, alderman of London; this eſtate being then held *in ſocage*.[f]

His deſcendant, Humphry Style of Langley, eſq. dying without male iſſue, his only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, carried this eſtate in marriage to Sir John Elwill, bart. who dying in 1727, without iſſue, Edmund, his brother, ſucceeded him, and about 1732, conveyed Sympſons to Hugh Raymond of Great Saling, in

[d] Philipott, p. 84.
[e] Manuſcript papers of Sir Humphry Style.
[f] Rot. Eſch. ejus an.

Eſſex, eſq. who ſettled it on his only ſon, Jones Raymond, eſq. in tail general, with remainder to his eldeſt daughter Amy, married to Peter Burrell, eſq. and her iſſue male. On the death of James Raymond, eſq. ſon of Jones Raymond before-mentioned, in 1678, without iſſue, Peter Burrell, of Beckenham, eſq. in right of his wife became intitled to it; after the death of whoſe widow it deſcended to her grandſon, Sir Peter Burrel, knt. and bart. ſince created lord Gwydir, and he is the preſent owner of it.

*Bromley college*, a charity as unexampled at the time of its inſtitution, as it has been without compare ſince, was founded by Dr. John Warner, biſhop of Rocheſter, who died in 1666, and by his will, proved that year,[a] directed the foundation of an HOSPITAL or COLLEGE, for twenty widows of loyal and orthodox clergymen, and a chaplain. To accompliſh this noble and generous deſign, he directed his executors to raiſe, out of his perſonal eſtate, a building proper for this purpoſe, and he charged his manor of Swayton with an annual payment of four hundred and fifty pounds for their maintenance. Of which ſum each widow was to receive twenty pounds yearly, and the remaining fifty pounds was for a ſtipend to the chaplain, who was always to be appointed from Magdalen-college, in Oxford, where the biſhop himſelf had been educated.

The biſhop had alſo expreſſed a deſire, that this hoſpital ſhould be fixed as near as conveniently might be to the cathedral of Rocheſter; but there being a neceſſity for applying to the legiſlature, for an explanation of ſome parts of the will, which were rather obſcure, and of others not quite practicable, the executors obtained leave, by an act paſſed anno 22d Charles II. to build upon any other ſpot within the dioceſe, where they thought proper.

[a] Will in Prerogative-office, lib. i. p. 14. See Newcourt's Rep. vol. i. p. 330, and Wood's Athenæ, vol. ii. p. 374, and Hiſtory Rocheſter, anno 1772, &c. Ken. Improp. p. 282.

This

This college, or hoſpital, was accordingly built, adjoining the north end of the town of Bromley, and has ever ſince been known by the name of Bromley-college.

There was, however, a defect in the biſhop's original plan; for by a clauſe in his will, ſo much was to be reſerved out of the widows exhibitions, as would be neceſſary to keep the buildings in good repair, which would in general have been a larger drawback upon their ſmall incomes, than could well have been ſuſtained. The parliament, therefore, to prevent this, charged, with the conſent of the heir at law, the before-mentioned manor of Swayton with the additional ſum of five pounds for repairs; though as this was thought too ſmall for the maintenance of ſo large a building, the two executors immediately gave one hundred pounds each towards it. With which the truſtees purchaſed a fee-farm rent of ten pounds, but ſtill this revenue was found very inſufficient for the purpoſe, and the truſtees have at times been much embarraſſed, how to preſerve the college in a decent and ſubſtantial ſtate, and ſomewhat more than fifty years ago, they were under the neceſſity of ſoliciting voluntary contributions towards it, from the clergy of the dioceſe, and of the peculiar juriſdiction of Shoreham.

The kindneſs of the benefactors has hitherto made a ſecond application of this nature needleſs, and in the liſt of thoſe well-diſpoſed perſons who have contributed to this charity, are the reverend doctor Plume, archdeacon of this dioceſe, who dying in 1704, left by his will one hundred pounds to it; archbiſhop Teniſon, who by his will left one hundred guineas, half to the repairs of this hoſpital, and the other half to the widows in it. Joſeph Wilcocks, eſq. ſon of the biſhop of Rocheſter of that name, who completed the incloſure of the college-grove, at the expence of one hundred and twenty pounds, and Mrs. Wolfe, mother of the late brave general, who dying in 1765, bequeathed

by her will to the truſtees five hundred pounds, to enable them to put it in a thorough ſtate of repair. Since which this charitable eſtabliſhment has been increaſed by ſtill further benefactions. Theſe have been from the two worthy and beneficent brothers, the late Jeffry Hetherington, eſq. of North Cray, and the Rev. Mr. William Hetherington, of Farnham-Royal, his only remaining brother and heir. The former of whom allowed, for ſome years before his death, in 1767, the intereſt of 2000l. to be applied every winter, in providing the widows with coals and candles. This ſum, in old South Sea annuities, the latter gentleman (among other almoſt unparalleled acts of munificence and charity) ſoon after his brother's death, ſettled upon it as a perpetuity, the intereſt of it from time to time, to be applied for the like purpoſe.

Biſhop Pearce gave, in his life-time, five thouſand pounds, old South Sea annuities, to the widows and chaplain of this college, from which the latter receives ten pounds per annum. Since which, Mrs. Rogers, who ſome time inhabited, at a yearly rent, the apartment in the north wing, called the Truſtees Houſe, directed by her will her furniture to be ſold, for the benefit of the widows, in any manner the truſtees ſhould appoint, they received one hundred and twenty pounds upon this account, which they appropriated to the building fund. The reverend Mr. Bagſhaw, late chaplain of the college, who died in 1787, left by his will two hundred pounds ſtock in the three per cents. to increaſe the ſalary of the chaplain. Mrs. Helen Betenſon, only ſiſter and heir of Sir Richard Betenſon, bart. late of Bradborne, in Sevenoke, by will in 1788, gave, among other extenſive charities, the ſum of ten thouſand pounds, with which ten new apartments have been erected for as many additional widows, who receive each twenty pounds per annum on this foundation, nor has it any proviſion at preſent for repairs. Dr. John Thomas, late biſhop of Rocheſter, who died in 1793, left by

by his will one hundred pounds, to be divided among the widows of the old foundation, who might inhabit the college at the time of his deceaſe, which was accordingly paid to them; he likewiſe left by his will three hundred pounds to be funded, the intereſt of it to be applied for repairs.

Since which, a very large legacy has been paid into the hands of the truſtees, left conditionally, to the college, by Mr. Pearce, brother of biſhop Pearce, to his great nephew and great niece, in caſe they ſhould die without iſſue, which they both did about three years ago, on which event happening, he directed that twelve thouſand pounds ſhould be paid to the truſtees of this college, for the purpoſe of building ten additional apartments, and that the chaplain ſhould receive twenty pounds per annum out of the intereſt of that ſum. Theſe buildings are not as yet erected, and it ſeems to be the determination of the truſtees not to begin them, till by an accumulation of intereſt, a ſufficient ſum ſhall have been laid by, for the purpoſe of repairs, and at the ſame time to make ſome addition to the chaplain's ſalary. The income of the widows on this foundation will not be leſs than thirty pounds per annum. Thoſe on the old foundation receive at this time thirty pounds ten ſhillings per annum, which ariſes as follows:

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| From biſhop Warner | 20 | 0 | 0 | Mr. Hetherington | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| .....biſhop Pearce | 7 | 0 | 0 | Lady Gower - | 0 | 10 | 0 |

Another benefaction (for ſo I muſt call it, though it took not the deſired effect) ought not to paſs unnoticed; which was that of Mrs. Street, of Dartford, who a few years ago bequeathed three hundred pounds to this college. But the good intentions of the teſtatrix have been unhappily defeated; ſhe having inadvertently charged the legacy on a real eſtate.

This charitable inſtitution of biſhop Warner, was the firſt of the kind in England; however, the plan has been followed in other dioceſes, by ſeveral eſtabliſhments

bliſhments of a ſimilar nature, particularly, at Wincheſter and Saliſbury, and by Sarah, ducheſs dowager of Somerſet, in the alms-houſe, ſo nobly and munificently endowed by her at Froxfield, in Wiltſhire. Bromley college was exempted from payment to the land-tax, by act anno 30 king George II. In the chapel is a fine whole length picture of the founder.

## *CHARITIES.*

JOHN BUCKERIDGE, biſhop of Ely, by his will, bequeathed the ſum of 20l. to be employed for ſome yearly benefit of the poor of this pariſh; with which, and the addition of ſome little money beſides, a purchaſe was made of a houſe in Nichol-lane, rented at 40s. a year; which ſum, neceſſary repairs being firſt deducted, was to be diſtributed every Good Friday (or near that time) amongſt the pooreſt and moſt neceſſitous inhabitants.

JASPER GREENE, vicar of Woodneſborough, by his will in 1660, gave 20s. yearly to the poor of this pariſh.

The Rev. GEORGE WILSON, late rector of Cheſilhurſt, at his death, left by his will, 200l. to be diſpoſed of in a purchaſe, the annual income of which he directed to be appropriated to the ſole uſe and benefit of the charity-ſchool in this pariſh, for ever.

Dr. JOHN WARNER, biſhop of Rocheſter, bequeathed by his will, 20l. in money, for the benefit of the poor of this pariſh.

Bromley is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *dioceſe* of Rocheſter and *deanry* of Dartford. The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, ſeems to have been erected at different times; the eaſtern part appearing much the moſt antient. At the weſt end is a tower, in which hang five tuneable bells.

Among other monuments and memorials in this church, *in the chancel*, is a monument and memorial on braſs, for John Yonge, biſhop of Rocheſter, obt. 1605; two for John Flavell and his wife; ſeveral for the Youngs, of London, merchants; a braſs plate for Jane, wife of Henry Bodenham, of Folſton, in Wiltſhire, obt. 1625; another for Anthony Chalthorp, eſq. obt. 1594; ſeveral for the Thornhills; a memorial

rial for Robert Pynſent, of Sundridge, gent. obt. 1679. *In the nave*, a monument againſt the north wall, for Peregrina, wife of lieutenant Buſy Manſel, obt. 1721. *In the ſouth iſle*, a monument againſt the eaſt wall, for John Maunſell, of Chichely, in Buckinghamſhire, eſq. obt. 1625; another for Abigail, wife of Hamington Bagſhaw, clerk, and three daughters, and a French inſcription for Walter de Henche, parſon of Bromleghe, obt. 1360.[a]

Dr. John Buckeridge, firſt, biſhop of Rocheſter, and afterwards of Ely, who died in 1631, was buried here, but had no memorial whatever put over him;[b] Dr. Zachariah Pearce, late biſhop of Rocheſter, who died at Ealing in 1774, was likewiſe buried here. In the wall of the church once, was, as is reported, the portraiture in ſtone of Richard de Wendover, biſhop of Rocheſter, and rector of this pariſh, who died in 1250: yet it is ſaid, his body was buried at Weſtminſter by the king's ſpecial command, being accounted a very holy and virtuous man.[c]

This church has always been conſidered as an appendage to the manor, and as ſuch was recovered with it from Odo, biſhop of Baieux, by archbiſhop Lanfranc, in the aſſembly of the whole county at Pinenden-heath, in the reign of the Conqueror, and immediately reſtored to biſhop Gundulph, and the church of Rocheſter. Which gift was confirmed to that biſhop, and the church of St. Andrew, by archbiſhop Anſelm, in 1101, and afterwards by ſeveral of his ſucceſſors in the ſee of Canterbury, as has been already taken notice of.

In the 15th year of king Edward I. the church of Bromley was valued at thirty marcs.[d]

[a] See the monuments, epitaphs, arms, &c. in this church, deſcribed at full length in Reg. Roff. p. 811.

[b] See Willis Cath. v. ii. p. 363.

[c] Weever, p. 338, 482.

[d] Stev. Mon. vol. i. p. 456.

Anno

Anno 35 king Henry VI. Richard Fryſton, clerk, parſon of the church, brought his writ of *Juris utrum* in the court of common-pleas, againſt one Henry Ferrour, for the recovery of a meſſuage, with its appurtenances, in Bromleigh, which he claimed to belong to his church *in free alms*, and he recovered ſeiſin of it, by view of the jurors impannelled thereupon.[a]

In 1534 this church was a rectory, and then valued at thirty-nine pounds twelve ſhillings, ſoon after which it became appropriated to the biſhop of Rocheſter, in which ſtate it remains at this time, the church being ſerved by a curate appointed by the biſhop. It is not in charge in the king's books.[b]

On the abolition of epiſcopacy, at the latter end of the reign of king Charles I. thoſe revenues were ſeized on by the ruling powers, and ſoon after the king's death, were by the parliament ordered to be ſurveyed and ſold, to ſupply the neceſſities of the ſtate. Accordingly, in 1650, it was returned on a ſurvey, that the rectory of Bromley had a manor belonging to it, and a good manſion-houſe, with a gate-houſe, a large barn of eleven bayes, two ſmall barns, and other buildings, and fifty-one acres of glebe land; which altogether were worth fifty pounds per annum; and the quit rents of the manor eight ſhillings and nine-pence yearly; that the tythes were worth one hundred and thirty pounds per annum; and a ſmall tenement two pounds and upwards. All which (the tenants of the manor here having common of paſture in the glebe land, and common mead, which laſt contained about ten acres, from Lammas-day to Michaelmas-day) were let by John, biſhop of Rocheſter, from 1639, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rent of ſixty pounds per annum, and forty quarters of oats; and it was returned, that the ſame, tythes and all, were worth, to be let by the tenant, one hundred and eighty-three pounds per annum.[c]

[a] Coke's Entries, p. 401. [b] Bacon lib. Regis.
[c] Parl. Surveys, Lamb. libr. vol. xiv and xix.

CHURCH

## CHURCH OF BROMLEY.

PATRONS,
*Or by whom preſented.*

*Biſhop of Rocheſter* .....

RECTORS.

*Richard de Wendover*, or *Wendene*, 1226 and 1238.[d]
*John Sudbury*, in the reign of king Henry III.[e]
*Abel de Sancto Martino*, in 1292.[f]
*John de Frendeſburie*, deprived in 1329.[g]
*Hugh de Penebregg*, collated 1329.[g]
*Walter de Henche*, obt. in 1360.[h]
*William Fryſton*.[i]
*Richard Freſton*, in 1456.[i]
*Wynando*, in 1465.

CURATES.

*James Dyer*, 1604.
*Stephen Conſtantine*, 1607.
*John Preſton*, 1608.
*Jaſper Greene*.
*William Wallis*, buried Sept. 29, 1624.
*John Hodges*, A. B. 1627.
*Noah Webb*, 1628.
*Robert Rainsford*, 1630.
*Richard Rathbone*, 1634.
*Thomas Smith*, buried Sept. 22, 1639.
*Robert Antrobus*, 1640.
*Joſeph Jackſon*, 1647.
*Henry Arnold*, 1656, ejected 1662.[k]
*Thomas Pike*, 1666.
*David Barton*, 1667.

[d] He was, when parſon of this church, conſecrated biſhop of Rocheſter, Nov. 21, 1238, and died in 1250. Le Neve's Faſti, p. 248. Reg. Roff. p. 95.

[e] Coke's Entries, p. 401.

[f] Reg. Roff. p. 193, 194.

[g] Ibid. p. 113. This John de Frinſburie was deprived by the biſhop of Rocheſter, for inobedience, and the biſhop placed Hugh de Penebregg in his room; notwithſtanding which, this John thruſt him out by force.—Wharton's Anglia Sacra, v. i. p. 369.

[h] He lies buried in this church.

[i] Coke's Entries, p. 401.

[k] Ejected by the Bartholomew Act. Calamy's Life of Baxter, p. 286.

| PATRONS, &c. | CURATES. |
|---|---|
| *Biſhop of Rocheſter* ..... | *Edmund Lees*, 1670.<br>*S. Graſcomes*, 1681.<br>*George Wilſon*, 1682.[l]<br>*Thomas Johnſon*, 1684.<br>*Edward Roman*, 1686.<br>*Henry Maundrel*, B. D. 1680.[m]<br>*Samuel Bowles*, 1695.<br>*Harrington Bagſhaw*, 1698, obt. May 29, 1739.[n]<br>*Joſeph Simms*, A. M. June, 1739.<br>*Thomas Bagſhaw*, 1744, obt. 1785.[o]<br>*H. Smith*, 1785, the preſent Curate. |

l Afterwards vicar of Cheſilhurſt, and in 1718 was buried there.

m Fellow of Exeter college, Oxon. and chaplain to the factory at Aleppo, and publiſhed a curious account of his travels to Jeruſalem.

n Alſo rector of Woolwich.

o In 1778 he was preſented to the rectory of Southfleet, which he held with this curacy.

END OF VOLUME I.


BRITISH
MUSEUM